

SENATE BILL REPORT

SHB 1527

As of March 12, 2015

Title: An act relating to requiring the Washington state department of agriculture to approve the comparable recertification standards of private entities for the purposes of waiving the recertification requirements under the Washington pesticide control act.

Brief Description: Requiring the Washington state department of agriculture to approve the comparable recertification standards of private entities for the purposes of waiving the recertification requirements under the Washington pesticide control act.

Sponsors: House Committee on Agriculture & Natural Resources (originally sponsored by Representatives Dent, Blake, Buys and Van De Wege).

Brief History: Passed House: 3/03/15, 97-0.

Committee Activity: Agriculture, Water & Rural Economic Development: 3/12/15.

SENATE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE, WATER & RURAL ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Staff: Bonnie Kim (786-7316)

Background: The Washington State Department of Agriculture (WSDA) licenses people who use, sell, or consult on the use of pesticides. WSDA's pesticide licensing program includes 12 license types and over 25 exam categories. All but the Limited Private Applicator and Rancher Private Applicator licenses must be renewed annually.

Generally all licensees must complete recertification requirements – 40 WSDA-approved credits with no more than 15 credits allowed per year or by meeting examination requirements – every five years. The director may waive the recertification requirements if the licensee can demonstrate the licensee is meeting comparable recertification standards through another state or jurisdiction or through a federal Environmental Protection Agency-approved government agency plan.

Summary of Bill: The director may also waive the recertification requirements for WSDA-approved private entities. WSDA may subsequently disapprove a previously approved private entity at its discretion.

Appropriation: None.

This analysis was prepared by non-partisan legislative staff for the use of legislative members in their deliberations. This analysis is not a part of the legislation nor does it constitute a statement of legislative intent.

Fiscal Note: Available.

Committee/Commission/Task Force Created: No.

Effective Date: Ninety days after adjournment of session in which bill is passed.

Staff Summary of Public Testimony: PRO: This bill allows us to reach outside current course options to those from private entities. The private entities will have to meet WDSA standards. This bill streamlines recertification requirements while maintaining the department's high standards. We worked very closely with WSDA to create opportunities for reciprocity and reduce redundancy.

Persons Testifying: PRO: Representative Dent, prime sponsor; John Rylaarsdam, Ben Moehrle, Agforestry Class 36 PPP 2.

Persons Signed In To Testify But Not Testifying: Juli Tuson, Agforestry Class 36, PPP 2; Brian Faw, Agforestry Class 36, member; Patrick Capper, WSDA.