
SUBSTITUTE HOUSE BILL 1562

State of Washington

65th Legislature

2017 Regular Session

By House Agriculture & Natural Resources (originally sponsored by Representatives Gregerson, Stonier, Orwall, Senn, Slatter, Peterson, Lovick, Farrell, Santos, Ryu, McBride, Ortiz-Self, Hudgins, Pollet, Riccelli, Macri, Pike, Stanford, Doglio, Fitzgibbon, Bergquist, Tharinger, Sawyer, Ormsby, Dolan, Cody, and Fey)

READ FIRST TIME 02/17/17.

1 AN ACT Relating to continuing the work of the Washington food
2 policy forum; creating new sections; and providing an expiration
3 date.

4 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF WASHINGTON:

5 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** (1) The legislature finds that:

6 (a) Numerous governmental agencies, state programs, and private
7 entities share goals and missions relating to food, nutrition,
8 agriculture, health, education, and economic development through
9 sustained agricultural production and improved access to nutritious
10 foods;

11 (b) The food and agriculture industry generates forty-nine
12 billion dollars annually, employs one hundred sixty thousand people,
13 and contributes thirteen percent to the state's economy;

14 (c) Agriculture is a leading employer in the state, produces over
15 three hundred different crops, and is composed of many diverse types
16 of agricultural endeavors;

17 (d) The state of Washington continues to lose farmland every year
18 to nonfarming uses;

19 (e) Washington is ranked with the bottom half of states for very
20 low food security;

1 (f) The state's food system is the network of people and
2 activities connecting growing and harvesting, processing,
3 distribution, consumption, and residue utilization, as well as
4 associated government and nongovernment institutions, regulations,
5 and programs;

6 (g) The current food system in the state of Washington is complex
7 and directly affected by the activities and policies of multiple
8 nongovernmental organizations, state agencies, and local governments,
9 and a coordinated, systemic approach is necessary to improve the
10 health of Washington's citizens and improve the economic viability of
11 agriculture; and

12 (h) The work done by the regional food policy councils in the
13 state can serve as a model for statewide efforts to bring together
14 community, government, business, and agricultural interests to work
15 on integrated and sustainable policy recommendations to strengthen
16 the regional food system that works towards a thriving, local and
17 regional food system.

18 (2) The legislature recognizes the need to understand the impacts
19 of governmental rules and regulations on the viability of the
20 agricultural sector and on the ability of citizens of all backgrounds
21 to obtain sufficient, high quality foods for themselves and their
22 families.

23 (3) The purpose of this act is to provide for the establishment
24 of a forum temporarily established in 2016 whereby state food policy,
25 food-related programs, and food-related issues can be examined,
26 improved, and better integrated to accomplish the overarching public
27 goals. It is the intent of the legislature to place the state in a
28 favorable position to qualify for available federal funds, moneys
29 from foundations, and other sources to fund the activities of the
30 forum.

31 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** (1) The Washington food policy forum is
32 established as a public-private partnership. The forum must build on
33 the work of the forum temporarily established in section 306(4),
34 chapter 36, Laws of 2016 sp. sess. (2016 supplemental omnibus
35 operating appropriations act). The purpose of the forum is to develop
36 recommendations to advance the following food system goals:

37 (a) To increase production, sales, and consumption of
38 Washington-grown foods;

1 (b) To develop and promote programs that bring healthy Washington
2 grown foods to Washington residents, including increased state
3 purchasing of local food products for schools, adult care programs,
4 and other state-funded food programs;

5 (c) To examine ways to encourage retention of an adequate number
6 of farmers and meet the educational needs for an adequate
7 agricultural workforce, and to provide for the continued economic
8 viability of local food production, processing, and distribution in
9 the state; and

10 (d) To reduce food insecurity and hunger in the state and
11 encourage the health and societal benefits of a healthy Washington
12 food system.

13 (2) Recommendations of the food policy forum must consider, but
14 not be limited to, ways in which the following may help achieve each
15 of the goals identified under subsection (1) of this section:

16 (a) Increased collaboration and communication between local,
17 state, and federal governments and agencies;

18 (b) Innovative public-private partnerships that can leverage
19 private and public market influence, such as through institutional
20 purchasing and contracts;

21 (c) Improvements to state or federal laws or regulations relevant
22 to the food system and food security in the state;

23 (d) Improvements in state or federal program implementation
24 relevant to the food system and food security in the state; and

25 (e) Identification of additional federal, state, local, and
26 private investments needed to accomplish the recommendations.

27 (3) In developing its recommendations, the food policy forum:

28 (a) Shall coordinate with appropriate local, state, and federal
29 agencies, tribes, and nongovernmental organizations to avoid
30 duplication of effort;

31 (b) Shall solicit public input through public hearings or
32 informational sessions;

33 (c) May conduct research and analysis as needed within financial
34 resources available to the forum; and

35 (d) May form an advisory committee or committees to address
36 issues identified by the forum as requiring additional study or
37 particular expertise.

38 (4) The director of the state conservation commission is
39 responsible for appointing participating members of the food policy
40 forum. In making appointments, the director of the state conservation

1 commission must attempt to ensure a diversity of knowledge,
2 experience, and perspectives reflecting the issues to be addressed by
3 the forum including, but not limited to:

4 (a) State and federal government employees, including academia;

5 (b) Related nonprofit and community organizations; and

6 (c) The food industry, including food production, processing,
7 distribution, marketing, and retail sales.

8 (5) A majority of the participating members appointed by the
9 director of the state conservation commission must appoint an
10 administrative chair for the forum.

11 (6) In addition to members appointed by the director of the state
12 conservation commission, four legislators may serve on the food
13 policy forum in an ex officio capacity. Legislative participants must
14 be appointed as follows:

15 (a) The speaker of the house of representatives shall appoint one
16 member from each of the two largest caucuses of the house of
17 representatives; and

18 (b) The president of the senate shall appoint one member from
19 each of the two largest caucuses of the senate.

20 (7) Each member of the food policy forum shall serve without
21 compensation but may be reimbursed for travel expenses as authorized
22 in RCW 43.03.050 and 43.03.060.

23 (8) Staff for the food policy forum must be provided by the state
24 conservation commission. The state conservation commission is
25 responsible for transmitting the recommendations of the food policy
26 forum to the legislature. All recommendations of the food policy
27 forum must be transmitted to the legislature by the state
28 conservation commission, consistent with RCW 43.01.036, by October
29 31, 2018. The recommendations may include considerations for
30 continuation of the food policy forum beyond the expiration date of
31 this section and any changes to the mission, charge, or structure of
32 the food policy forum should it continue beyond the expiration date.

33 (9) This section expires July 1, 2019.

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