
SENATE BILL 5508

State of Washington

68th Legislature

2023 Regular Session

By Senators Short, Shewmake, Warnick, J. Wilson, and L. Wilson

Read first time 01/23/23. Referred to Committee on State Government & Elections.

1 AN ACT Relating to promoting local agriculture through
2 greenhouses; amending RCW 19.27.015 and 19.27.065; and creating a new
3 section.

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

5 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** The legislature recognizes that both food
6 security and food quality are increasingly threatened by ongoing
7 logistical supply line disruptions and inflation. Access to and
8 affordability of food, in particular fresh fruits and vegetables, is
9 vital to the health and well-being of our citizens. The legislature
10 finds that supporting the growth and development of innovative new
11 low-energy techniques for the year-round production of fresh fruits
12 and vegetables at the local level is a crucial part of solving this
13 need. Local food banks have done tremendous work in providing access
14 to nutrition during the COVID-19 pandemic. The legislature finds that
15 supporting local food banks in providing access to affordable
16 nutrition enhances the health and welfare of our citizens. The
17 legislature seeks to encourage the adoption of these techniques by
18 individual families in order to increase and enhance access and
19 availability to fresh year-round food supplies for themselves and
20 their communities.

1 **Sec. 2.** RCW 19.27.015 and 2018 c 207 s 1 are each amended to
2 read as follows:

3 As used in this chapter:

4 (1) "Agricultural structure" means a structure designed and
5 constructed to house farm implements, hay, grain, poultry, livestock,
6 or other horticultural products. This structure may not be a place of
7 human habitation or a place of employment where agricultural products
8 are processed, treated, or packaged, nor may it be a place used by
9 the public.

10 (2) "City" means a city or town.

11 (3) "Commercial building permit" means a building permit issued
12 by a city or a county to construct, enlarge, alter, repair, move,
13 demolish, or change the occupancy of any building not covered by a
14 residential building permit.

15 (4) "Multifamily residential building" means common wall
16 residential buildings that consist of four or fewer units, that do
17 not exceed two stories in height, that are less than five thousand
18 square feet in area, and that have a one-hour fire-resistive
19 occupancy separation between units.

20 (5) "Residential building permit" means a building permit issued
21 by a city or a county to construct, enlarge, alter, repair, move,
22 demolish, or change the occupancy of any building containing only
23 dwelling units used for independent living of one or more persons
24 including permanent provisions for living, sleeping, eating, cooking,
25 and sanitation, and structures accessory to dwelling units, such as
26 detached garages and storage buildings.

27 (6) "Temporary growing structure" means a structure that has the
28 (~~sides and~~) roof covered with polyethylene, polyvinyl, or similar
29 flexible synthetic material and is used to provide plants with either
30 frost protection or increased heat retention.

31 **Sec. 3.** RCW 19.27.065 and 1996 c 157 s 2 are each amended to
32 read as follows:

33 The provisions of this chapter do not apply to temporary growing
34 structures used solely for the (~~commercial~~) production of
35 horticultural plants including ornamental plants, flowers,
36 vegetables, and fruits. A temporary growing structure is not
37 considered a building or structure for purposes of this chapter.

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