H-1490.1

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**SUBSTITUTE HOUSE BILL 1707**

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**State of Washington 69th Legislature 2025 Regular Session**

**By** House Agriculture & Natural Resources (originally sponsored by Representatives Dent and Dye)

AN ACT Relating to establishing a review process before the state noxious weed control board may list certain agricultural crops as noxious weeds; amending RCW 17.10.080; and creating a new section.

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

NEW SECTION. **Sec.**  The legislature finds that effective communication between affected parties and regulators is always important, but especially so at the present time, as agricultural producers and the agricultural economy are under strain. Therefore, the legislature intends to restrict the listing of any agricultural crops as noxious weeds before the state noxious weed control board has the opportunity to consider recommendations provided by work groups convened by the department of agriculture that include agricultural producers.

**Sec.**  RCW 17.10.080 and 2011 c 126 s 1 are each amended to read as follows:

(1) The state noxious weed control board shall each year or more often, following a hearing, adopt a state noxious weed list.

(2) The state noxious weed control board shall adopt guidelines by rule for placing plants on the state noxious weed list. These guidelines must include criteria for reconsideration of proposed new species that were not adopted by the state noxious weed control board, including the need for the board to be presented with additional data from scientific sources regarding any invasive and noxious qualities of the species and from existing positive economic benefits before taking any action. These guidelines must restrict the listing of agricultural crops as noxious weeds until the board receives recommendations provided by a work group convened as needed by the department of agriculture that has members who include, at a minimum, affected agricultural producers and one member of the board. The guidelines may also provide for exceptions in noxious weed listings.

(3) Any person may request during a comment period established by the state noxious weed control board the inclusion, deletion, or designation change of any plant to the state noxious weed list.

(4) The state noxious weed control board shall send a copy of the list to each activated county noxious weed control board, to each weed district, and to the county legislative authority of each county with an inactive noxious weed control board.

(5) The record of rule making must include the written findings of the board for the inclusion of each plant on the list. The findings shall be made available upon request to any interested person.

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