



STATE OF WASHINGTON

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

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2007 Agency-Request Legislation

April 25, 2007

Three agency-request bills were considered and passed by the 2007 Legislature and signed into law by the Governor. The bills take effect on July 22, 2007.

ESB 5204 – Animal Health Enforcement

Strengthens WSDA's authority to monitor, investigate, and enforce the animal health laws and rules of this state. The bill does not change animal health requirements but allows the department to better ensure those requirements are being met. Specifically, the bill:

- Clearly authorizes WSDA to stop vehicles transporting animals to check for animal health documents (which are required for animals entering the state) and to impose a civil infraction fine on those not carrying the proper documents.
- Allows WSDA to fine persons who violate the animal health law up to \$1,000 per violation.
- Allows WSDA to take action on a livestock dealer license if the dealer doesn't carry proper animal health and identification documents.

This new law allows WSDA to better protect the livestock industry, animal and human health, and the economy of the State of Washington.

HB 1305 – Food Locker Licensing

Repeals Chapter 19.32 RCW, regulating refrigerated food lockers. At one time, WSDA licensed several hundred of these facilities. Today those numbers have dropped to just 14, likely due to the shift to home freezers and the shopping and eating habits of today's consumers. A review of the currently licensed food lockers shows that most are co-located and/or part of a facility that is licensed or permitted by other state and local food safety laws. The bill eliminates the requirement for a facility to be licensed as a food locker and pay the \$10 annual license fee. It does not affect any other licensing of the facility or the department's authority to inspect a facility or take action to protect the public from unsafe food.

HB 1311 – Small Farm Direct Marketing Assistance

Removes the July 1, 2007 expiration date for RCW 15.64.050, which was enacted in 2001 and provides specific statutory direction for WSDA's Small Farm and Direct Marketing program. The program works to improve the viability of the state's small farms by reducing market barriers and developing or enhancing direct marketing opportunities for farmers.

For more information, check the WSDA Web site at www.agr.wa.gov or contact Mary Beth Lang, Assistant to the Director, (360) 902-1812.