
HOUSE BILL 2405

State of Washington

63rd Legislature

2014 Regular Session

By Representatives Buys, Blake, Condotta, Warnick, and Tharinger

Read first time 01/16/14. Referred to Committee on Agriculture & Natural Resources.

1 AN ACT Relating to hemp as a component of commercial animal feed;
2 creating new sections; and providing an expiration date.

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

4 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** (1) The legislature finds that hemp seed is
5 known globally for its high levels of essential fatty acids, such as
6 omega-3, omega-6, omega-9, and gamma-linolenic acid, as well as for its
7 high levels of amino acid-containing protein.

8 (2) The legislature further finds that international research
9 suggests that hemp seed is an excellent source of nutrition for the
10 major classes of livestock, including cattle, swine, and poultry. This
11 research suggests that hemp is a valuable source of protein, energy,
12 and long-chain fatty acids in animals and, when included into an
13 animal's diet, has no adverse effect on production or health. Research
14 also shows that, when hemp seed meal is included in the feed of laying
15 hens, the omega fatty acid profile in the resulting eggs is favorably
16 influenced.

17 (3) The legislature further finds that local, state-based markets
18 exist in which consumers are willing to pay a premium price for
19 products that result from hemp-fed animals. The state should aid its

1 farmers and ranchers in accessing this price premium as a small, but
2 important, step towards helping small scale agriculture remain viable
3 and towards maintaining Washington's agricultural way of life.

4 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** (1) The department of agriculture must
5 conduct a study evaluating whether hemp and hemp products should be an
6 allowable component of commercial feed in Washington. In conducting
7 the evaluation, the department of agriculture may focus its efforts as
8 it deems most appropriate and may limit its scope to particular classes
9 of animals where current research indicates that hemp may have the most
10 benefit on the health of the animal, the welfare of the animal, the
11 resulting product, or the overall physical environment.

12 (2) If the department of agriculture determines that allowing some
13 use of hemp in commercial feed is appropriate, then the department must
14 take the appropriate administrative actions to allow for commercial
15 feed license holders to include hemp in their feed formulations. If
16 not, the department must provide a report to the legislature,
17 consistent with RCW 43.01.036, explaining the department's findings and
18 reasons for not taking administrative action.

19 (3) If the department of agriculture finds that it cannot satisfy
20 the requirements of this section prior to the expiration date of this
21 section, then the department must bring agency request legislation in
22 the regularly scheduled 2017 legislative session to request an
23 extension of this date.

24 (4) This section expires June 30, 2017.

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