
HOUSE BILL 2273

State of Washington 64th Legislature 2015 2nd Special Session

By Representatives Buys, Blake, and Johnson

1 AN ACT Relating to developing a preemptive plan to guide the
2 state's response to any potential outbreak of highly pathogenic avian
3 influenza; creating a new section; and providing an expiration date.

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

5 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** (1) The department of agriculture shall
6 develop a preemptive plan to guide the state's response to any
7 potential outbreak of highly pathogenic avian influenza, or HPAI, in
8 the state of Washington. The plan developed under this section must
9 represent the total proposed response should HPAI be detected in
10 Washington and identify the planned responses by all state and local
11 agencies during all phases of the response, including detection,
12 control, communication, and carcass disposal.

13 (2) The department of agriculture must develop the plan required
14 under this section in partnership with:

15 (a) All other state agencies potentially involved in responding
16 to HPAI, including the department of health, the state board of
17 health, the department of ecology, and the department of fish and
18 wildlife;

19 (b) Representatives of local government and local health
20 districts;

1 (c) Representatives of any interested and willing federal
2 agencies, including the United States department of agriculture and
3 the centers for disease control and prevention; and

4 (d) Representatives of the poultry, egg, and other potentially
5 affected industries.

6 (3) The plan developed under this section may be based on
7 national response plans but must be tailored to the unique aspects of
8 Washington's avian population, industry structures, physical
9 geography, and economic markets. Examples of state-specific elements
10 include:

11 (a) Strategies for communicating to, and accessing the flocks of,
12 the owners of small scale, or backyard, avian flocks that do not
13 actively participate in traditional industry structures; and

14 (b) Strategies for disposing of a large number of avian carcasses
15 in a manner that is safe, sanitary, feasible, and acceptable under
16 all relevant environmental laws, public health laws, and regulations
17 implemented by state agencies, local governments, and public health
18 districts.

19 (4) The plan developed under this section must be completed no
20 later than September 30, 2015. The department of agriculture must
21 report to the legislature, consistent with RCW 43.01.036, if the
22 implementation of this section uncovers any impediments in state
23 statute that limits the state's ability to effectively respond to an
24 HPAI outbreak.

25 (5) This section expires June 30, 2016.

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