
HOUSE BILL 3351

State of Washington

60th Legislature

2008 Regular Session

By Representative Chase

Read first time 02/06/08. Referred to Committee on Agriculture & Natural Resources.

1 AN ACT Relating to food contamination; and creating new sections.

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

3 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** The legislature finds that at least one
4 study has shown that urine and saliva of children eating a variety of
5 nonorganic foods from Washington grocers contained biological markers
6 of food contamination. Because children's bodies are growing and
7 developing, they are especially vulnerable to the effects of toxic
8 chemicals. While the federal government assessed and reformulated the
9 nation's food safety laws with the 1996 enactment of the food quality
10 protection act, additional research may need to be conducted to
11 determine whether the contaminants measured in Washington children
12 would cause any adverse health outcomes. There is substantial
13 toxicologic evidence that repeated low-level exposure to food
14 contaminants may affect neurodevelopment and growth in developing
15 animals. To protect children's health, it is important to know the
16 extent of the presence of food contamination in our food, the effect of
17 repeated low-level exposure to food contamination on children, what
18 research has been conducted in this area, and whether further studies
19 or regulations are needed.

1 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** The department of health is directed to:

2 (1) Review existing studies of the cumulative developmental risk to
3 children from low-dose exposures to food contamination and report to
4 the legislature on:

5 (a) The findings, results, and recommendations from the studies;
6 and

7 (b) Any scientific gaps in these studies or scientific questions
8 raised by the studies that the department finds should be researched in
9 order to best protect children from food safety risks associated with
10 food contamination.

11 (2) Review actions taken by the United States environmental
12 protection agency in implementation of the 1996 food quality protection
13 act and report to the legislature on any areas where additional
14 research is needed.

15 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 3.** The department of health shall submit its
16 report to the appropriate committees of the legislature by November 1,
17 2008. The report shall include specific recommendations for
18 legislative action for how the state can help reduce food contaminants.

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