



HB 1321 (JINKINS)
ESTABLISHING FOOD AND BEVERAGE PROVISION AND SERVICE POLICY

The Problem

If left unchecked, the adult obesity rate in Washington could reach over 55% by 2030. Washington state has a role in protecting and improving the health of its citizens and has already initiated numerous efforts to promote healthy eating and active living. In this role, state government is generally seen as the educator when in fact it is also an employer, food and beverage provider, and caregiver.

Currently, many foods purchased and served by the state do NOT contribute to diets that meet the Dietary Guidelines for Americans.

It is time that the state government “walk its talk” and model its behavior after contemporary practices. By adopting such policies and committing to meet federal dietary guidelines, our state government can make healthier food and beverages more readily available, affordable, and appealing to its employees, visitors and custodial populations.

The Solution

HB 1321 would require all state agencies to adopt food and beverage provision and service policies by January 1, 2014. Effects and benefits of the changes will be detailed in a report to the legislature in July 2015. Outcomes include:

- Make state government a model for efficient, healthy, and locally sourced food and beverage provision and service.
- Support of local and small business producers/distributors/processors of healthy foods.
- Improvement in the nutritional quality of foods served to tens of thousands of Washington residents daily.
- Decrease the health effects and societal impacts of diseases related to poor nutrition.
- Enhanced workplace performance while decreasing the financial impact of diseases related to poor diet in our state budget.

Endorsers: CHILDHOOD OBESITY PREVENTION COALITION & THE AMERICAN HEART ASSOCIATION