

REVENUE: No revenue impact

FISCAL: Minimal fiscal impact, no statement issued

Action: Do Pass as Amended and Be Printed Engrossed

Vote: 5 - 0 - 0

Yeas: Burdick, George, Girod, Rosenbaum, Bonamici

Nays: 0

Exc.: 0

Prepared By: Lori Brocker, Administrator

Meeting Dates: 2/3, 2/19

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES: Authorizes Department of Agriculture to impose civil penalties for food safety violations. Authorizes department to adopt rules to implement civil penalty schedule. Provides for penalty not to exceed \$10,000 for each violation. Clarifies penalty classification in statute. Reorganizes penalty provisions under relevant statutory sections. Amends statutory provision related to livestock inspection violation to resolve statutory conflict. Makes violation of livestock inspection statute or related rule Class A misdemeanor.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Civil penalty provisions in similar statutes
- Amount of penalty
- Industry compliance
- Fiscal impact
- Enforcement authority
- Raw milk exemption
- Civil penalty schedule
- Contamination in grocery stores

EFFECT OF COMMITTEE AMENDMENT: Reduces the maximum penalty amount from \$25,000 to \$10,000 for each violation. Directs that penalties imposed shall be paid into the General Fund, to Department of Agriculture Account.

BACKGROUND: The Food Safety Division of the Department of Agriculture oversees and regulates food safety. Violations of food safety laws currently are not subject to civil penalty. Violations generally are resolved in criminal court, with fines imposed varying between a minimum of \$10 to a maximum of \$200 per offense. Senate Bill 188 gives the department additional enforcement authority to regulate food safety.