

REVENUE: No revenue impact

FISCAL: Fiscal statement issued

Action:	Do Pass as Amended and Be Printed Engrossed and Be Referred to the Committee on Ways and Means
Vote:	5 - 0 - 0
Yeas:	Hass, Olsen, Prozanski, Thomsen, Dingfelder
Nays:	0
Exc.:	0
Prepared By:	Beth Patrino, Administrator
Meeting Dates:	3/29, 3/31, 4/19

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES: Prohibits commercial farm owner or operator from confining egg laying hen in enclosure not complying with rules adopted by Department of Agriculture (ODA). Prohibits sale of eggs or egg products that person knows, or reasonably should know, are product of egg laying hen that has been confined during egg production in enclosure that fails to comply with ODA rules. Directs ODA to adopt rules regulating manner in which egg laying hens may be confined in enclosure. Stipulates rules must be designed to promote humane welfare standards, be effective in protecting consumers from food-borne pathogens and require enclosures constructed or acquired before January 1, 2012 meet standards equivalent to requirements for certification established in United Egg Producers' Animal Husbandry Guidelines for U.S. Egg Laying Flocks. Requires enclosures constructed or acquired on or after January 1, 2012 meet or be convertible into enclosures that meet standards equivalent to requirements for certification of enriched colony facility systems established in American Humane Association's (AHA) farm animal welfare certification program. Authorizes ODA to impose civil penalty for violation not to exceed \$2,500. Requires commercial farm owner or operator engaged in commercial egg production to provide to ODA a business plan describing manner of compliance with rules. Beginning January 1, 2015, authorizes ODA to inspect commercial farms engaged in egg production to enforce provision of Act. Allows ODA to set, assess and collect fees for inspections from commercial farm owner or operator. Requires ODA to report annually to Legislature on rate at which commercial farms are complying with business plans. Prohibits rules from authorizing confining egg laying hen in enclosure that provides less than 116.3 square inches of individually usable floor space per hen, effective January 1, 2017. Establishes conversion goal for January 1, 2020 of no less than 25 percent of enclosures and by January 1, 2023 no less than 65 percent of enclosures meet standards equivalent to requirements for certification of enriched colony facility systems established by AHA farm animal welfare certification program. Effective January 1, 2026, directs ODA to adopt rules requiring that enclosures meet standards equivalent to requirements for certification of enriched colony facility systems established in AHA's farm animal welfare certification program. Declares emergency, effective upon passage.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Size and types of cages used to confine egg laying hens
- Definition of "egg product"
- Timeline for conversion of cages; costs of conversion
- Animal welfare standards, studies of effects of confinement on hens and food safety issues

EFFECT OF COMMITTEE AMENDMENT: Replaces the measure.

BACKGROUND: There are three common housing systems in commercial use for egg-laying hens, including cages, free-range and barns. A majority of laying hens in the United States are confined in cages that provide approximately 67 square inches of space per bird. Senate Bill 805 A would require ODA to adopt rules regulating the manner in which egg laying hens may be confined in an enclosure.

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This summary has not been adopted or officially endorsed by action of the committee.