

WHAT GOES DOWN THE DRAIN ENDS IN OUR FOOD

An ACT relating to the protection of human health and the environment from food related chemicals and pathogens.

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

NEW SECTION. SEC. 1. Scientific studies have found chemicals and pathogens in food from municipal sewage contamination. Scientific studies have now found them in plants, forage animals and seafood that humans eat, as well as drinking water and groundwater. They are now found in umbilical cord blood, human milk, human blood, and throughout the bodies of sea animals. Babies of humans and other animals are born pre-polluted.

Treated sewage can contain 90,000 plus chemicals and multiple pathogens; everything that goes down a drain into wastewater treatment plants. These include pharmaceuticals and personal care products (PPCP), flame retardants, plastics that absorb toxins and bacteria, pesticides, radioactive chemicals, illicit drugs, caffeine, endocrine disruptors, antibiotic resistant bacteria and genes, dioxins, stormwater overflow, industrial and hospital wastes, nano particulates of plastic and metals, etc.

These pose unacceptable risks to human health and to the broader health of Washington State's marine system.

NEW SECTION. SEC. 2.

Tens of thousands of dry tons of sewage solids are annually applied to Washington State farmlands. In 2016, anywhere from roughly 48 thousand to 81 thousand were land applied. Reporting Wet sewage wastes (effluent) are increasingly being used on crop and forage lands. Washington State imports much of its food. California grows most of the nation's produce -- one-third of vegetables and two-thirds fruits and nuts, of which sixty-four percent (64%) of its vegetables contain at least one PPCP from treated sewage wastes and from the effluent; 91% detection.

The 2018 Office of Inspector General (OIG) Audit and Evaluation of EPA's biosolids program identified 352 pollutants of concern. 61% of these are ranked "acutely hazardous," "hazardous," or "priority pollutants" in by other agencies. Yet, in twenty-five (25) years, EPA has not added or regulated new pollutants of concern since its initial list of nine (9) metals. The OIG determined that "Over time the EPA has reduced the control activities over the biosolids program, including reductions in inspections and training intended to check for regulatory compliance and protect public health and the environment;" and "EPA is unable to assess the impact of hundreds of unregulated pollutants in land-applied biosolids on human health and the environment. Consequently, the biosolids program is at risk of not achieving its goal to protect public health and the environment."

NEW SECTION. SEC. 3

Found are illicit drugs in melons, cantaloupe, and spinach. Heavy metals and other sewage absorbed by crops and forage lands. Prions in grasses (e.g. wheat). Flame retardants in carrots, lettuce, tobacco and nightshade. Antibiotic resistant bacteria and genes in leafy greens. Dioxin in carrots, zucchini, cucumbers, and rape seeds. Cocaine, Prozac, caffeine, cholesterol medication in salmon. Bug Spray in juvenile chinook. Sewage effluent (reclaimed water) in craft beers. Plastic fibers in tap water. PPCPs in fish. PPCPs in soy beans. Murine Norovirus in romaine lettuce. Flame retardant (deca-BDE) in ryegrass, alfalfa, pumpkin, summer squash, maize and radish. Nanomaterials in soybeans. Organophosphates, insect repellent DEET and pasticizer in barley, wheat, oilseed rape, meadow fescue (a livestock forage crop), and carrots.

NEW SECTION SEC. 4

Associated disorders from ingesting these foods and chemicals include babies born pre-polluted, infant hypospasia (urethral appendage on side of penis), reproductive problems, childhood diseases, deaths, cancer, diabetes, obesity, other. What is found in the aquatic organisms and habitat have been shown to affect behavioral problems and impaired reproduction of fish, and other impacts to their health.

NEW SECTION. SEC. ____

The Washington State Legislature understands that the public has the right to know what is in their food and drink; the health or questionable safety of their food and drink. It is incumbent upon the Washington State Legislature to protect the public's health and the environment and to ensure a healthy food system. It is the responsibility of the Washington State Legislature to be transparent with the public about the quality of food and beverage sold in the State. The Washington State Legislature now knows about the state of our food system and its impacts on our health and the environment. The Washington State Legislature realizes the economic burden to the public, the rising cost of health and rising illnesses. The Washington State Legislature believes the public has the right to transparency as to the quality of food sold in our State. Therefore, the Washington State Legislature rules that any form of food, feed, ingredients grown in a medium containing sewage wastes, or products that are used to produce food and contain sewage wastes, should be identified in a transparent manner for easy reference for wholesale, retail, and individual consumers.

Sec. _____

This is to be enacted January 1 2020.