BILL REQUEST - CODE REVISER'S OFFICE

BILL REQ. #: I-3877.1/20

ATTY/TYPIST: MWE:lel

BRIEF DESCRIPTION:
Initiative No. 1119  July 7, 2020

AN ACT Relating to public health and safety to reduce hunger by using space within elevated highways and bridges for outdoor gardens, to benefit our most vulnerable citizens who may be lacking consistent nutritional food products; adding a new chapter to Title 70 RCW; creating a new section; and providing an effective date.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF WASHINGTON:

NEW SECTION. Sec. 1. (1) In order to utilize the real property within, around, and underneath the highway transportation system in Washington state for the purpose of cultivating vegetable gardens, the department of transportation shall enact a stewardship plan. In enacting the stewardship plan, the department shall consult local food banks including, but not limited to, Northwest Harvest, as well as local school districts, Future Farmers of America, and the Washington Farm Bureau.

(2) The department of transportation shall evaluate bridges in populated areas throughout the state for the purposes of accommodating new garden areas and assessing ingress and egress.
safety, and shall develop construction plans based on these evaluations. The construction plans must meet the necessary codes to prevent erosion and ensure against damage to the bridge structure.

(3) Local food banks in conjunction with the department of transportation shall be responsible for developing and maintaining the bridge hunger gardens and may defer this responsibility to the department of transportation. These responsibilities include, but are not limited to:

(a) Designing and constructing the garden plots, which shall require safe ingress and egress and which may include attaching reflective material to the span of each garden's overhanging bridge and securing the material to provide continuous natural sunlight within the shadow of the bridge during daylight hours;

(b) Engineering water collection zones in the form of ponds or retention tanks with activated carbon filters, which may be filled from local point source irrigation water sources when rainfall has slowed at rates no greater than standard industry fee rates for water; and

(c) Harvesting or arranging for the harvesting of all produce grown from the gardens, which shall be granted to the food banks for dispensing to families and individuals in need.

(d) Designing and constructing the garden plots, which may include attaching reflective material to the span of each garden's overhanging bridge and securing the material to provide continuous natural sunlight within the shadow of the bridge during daylight hours.

(4) Local food banks in conjunction with department of transportation may initially submit soil samples to the department of health, and thereafter shall conduct annual soil testing to ensure that the bridge hunger garden soil remains free of contaminants. Garden bridges may be constructed as a way to ensure that contamination does not occur.

(5) The definitions in this subsection apply throughout this section unless the context clearly requires otherwise:
(a) "Ingress and egress" means access to the plot of land designated for the use of bridge hunger gardens, which may be in the form of a walking path or small road compacted predominately with dirt, wood chip mulch, or crushed rock.

(b) "Point source irrigation water sources" means water sources including municipal fire hydrants used to refill the bridge hunger garden water collection zones.

(c) "Stewardship plan" means a plan to organize, construct, and maintain the bridge hunger gardens.

(d) “Garden bridge” means a planter structure measuring three feet by five feet by one foot in depth constructed upon a foundation consisting of quarry rock bound by rebar mesh steel two feet in height. See sample prototype at the following website location: www.bridgehunger.com

NEW SECTION. Sec. 2. Section 1 of this act constitutes a new chapter in Title 70 RCW.

NEW SECTION. Sec. 3. If any provision of this act or its application to any person or circumstance is held invalid, the remainder of the act or the application of the provision to other persons or circumstances is not affected.

NEW SECTION. Sec. 4. This act may be known and cited as the bridge hunger garden initiative.

NEW SECTION. Sec. 5. This act takes effect January 1, 2022.

January 1, 2021

--- END ---