

MINUTES  
**HOUSE COMMERCE & HUMAN RESOURCES COMMITTEE**

- DATE:** Wednesday, March 21, 2012
- TIME:** 1:30 or After Adjournment
- PLACE:** Room EW05
- MEMBERS:** Chairman Block (Block), Vice Chairman Hartgen, Representative(s) Lake, Trail, Marriott, Thayn, Simpson, Loertscher, Nessel, Ringo, King
- ABSENT/  
EXCUSED:** Representative(s) Lake, Trail, Simpson
- GUESTS:** Colby Cameron, Sullivan Reberger Eiguren, representing the Northwest Grocers Association (NWGA); Michael Read, WinCo Foods; Russell Barron and Rosie Andueza, Department of Health and Welfare; Tammy Perkins, Governor's Office
- Vice Chairman Hartgen** called the meeting to order at 4:45 p.m.
- MOTION:** **Representative Thayn** made a motion to approve the minutes of March 19, 2012. **Motion carried by voice vote.**
- H 689:** **Representative Perry** presented **H 689**, which relates to the issuance by the Department of Health and Welfare Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) benefits on the first day of each calendar month. This legislation gives statutory authority to the Director of the Department, at his discretion, to distribute such benefits over the course of multiple days each month. Representative Perry said that the Director of the Department currently has authority to distribute these benefits at his discretion; however, the Governor has requested that full transparency be made through the legislative process.
- Implementation costs for multi-day issuance of food stamps would be a total of \$440,000 for the first 12 months. This amount includes costs related to automation changes, operational costs, additional staff to manage phone calls and office visits, and other expenses. It is expected to take 120 days to implement this change from the date funding is acquired.
- Colby Cameron**, Sullivan Reberger Eiguren, representing NWGA, and **Michael Read**, WinCo Foods, testified **in support** of **H 689**, emphasizing the difficulties grocers face in accommodating the heavy concentration of food stamp recipients the first day of the month.
- Russ Barron**, Department of Health and Welfare, answered questions concerning ongoing maintenance costs, startup time schedule, dissemination of the date change to food stamp recipients, and overall protocol.
- MOTION:** **Representative Thayn** made a motion to send **H 689** to the floor with a **DO PASS** recommendation. **Motion carried by voice vote.** **Representative Perry** will sponsor the bill on the floor.
- ADJOURN:** There being no further business to come before the committee, the meeting was adjourned at 5:08 p.m.

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Representative Hartgen  
Vice Chairman

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Jeanne Clayton  
Secretary