

SENATE BILL SUMMARY

Prepared by the Division of Legislative Information for the Senate Bill **AS ORIGINALLY FILED**. For more detail, see Senate Bill Analyses, if available, prepared by the Senate's professional committee staff.

SB 350 Agriculture/Tomato Food Safety Standards by Senator Dean

Requires the Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services to adopt rules establishing food safety standards to safeguard the public health and promote the public welfare by protecting the consuming public from injury caused by the adulteration or contamination of tomatoes.

Requires the rules apply to the producing, harvesting, packing, and repacking of tomatoes for sale for human consumption by a tomato farm, tomato greenhouse, or tomato packinghouse or repacker in this state.

Provides that the rules include, but are not limited to, standards for:

- Proximity of domestic animals and livestock.
- Food-safety-related use of water for irrigation during production and washing of tomatoes after harvest.
- Use of fertilizers.
- Cleaning and sanitation of containers, materials, equipment, vehicles, and facilities, including storage and ripening areas.
- Health, hygiene, and sanitation of employees.
- Training and continuing education for persons who produce, harvest, pack, or repack tomatoes, and employees who handle tomatoes.
- Labeling and recordkeeping.

Authorizes the department to inspect tomato farms, greenhouses, packinghouses, repacking locations, or certain vehicles to ensure compliance.

Provides that a person who documents compliance with the department's rules, good agricultural practices, and best management practices is presumed to introduce tomatoes which are safe for human consumption, unless the department identifies noncompliance through inspections. (See bill for details)