

2ESB 5723 - H COMM AMD

By Committee on Commerce & Labor

1 Strike everything after the enacting clause and insert the
2 following:

3 "NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** The legislature finds that agricultural
4 workers are challenged not only in finding full-time, year-round work,
5 but also face difficulties in upgrading their agricultural skills. The
6 legislature also finds that the agricultural industry's demand for
7 skilled workers far outnumbers the current supply. In addition, the
8 legislature finds that despite recent advances in the safety of
9 agricultural production, additional training of agricultural workers
10 should assist the agricultural sector in ongoing efforts to reduce
11 occupational injuries.

12 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** A new section is added to chapter 15.04 RCW
13 to read as follows:

14 (1) The community agricultural worker safety grant program is
15 created within the department.

16 (2) Subject to amounts appropriated for this specific purpose, the
17 department shall conduct a competitive grant process and award a grant
18 to a nonprofit organization exempt from federal income tax under Title
19 26 U.S.C. Sec. 501(c)(3) of the internal revenue code to develop and
20 provide practical, hands-on training for the state's agricultural
21 workers.

22 (3) The grant recipient may receive up to two hundred fifty
23 thousand dollars per year.

24 (4)(a) In developing practical, hands-on training for the state's
25 agricultural workers, the grant recipient shall work with specific
26 stakeholders as follows:

27 (i) Farmers, farm workers, and related organizations to develop
28 training related to tractor and farm machinery skills and safety and
29 pesticides; and

1 (ii) Community and technical colleges to develop training related
2 to adult basic skills, civics, English as a second language, commercial
3 drivers' licensing, and other related topics.

4 (b) Stakeholders identified under this subsection (4) may not
5 receive compensation for their participation with the grant recipient.

6 (5) The department shall monitor the effectiveness of any training
7 developed and provided under this section.

8 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 3.** A new section is added to chapter 15.04 RCW
9 to read as follows:

10 The department of agriculture shall report to the appropriate
11 committees of the legislature by December 1st of each year on the
12 implementation of agricultural worker training pursuant to section
13 309(7), chapter 522, Laws of 2007 and section 2 of this act, as
14 appropriate. The report shall include, as appropriate, information
15 about any competitive grant process used and the grant recipient
16 selected, training developed and provided, the number of people
17 trained, and any reduction in workplace injuries.

18 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 4.** Section 2 of this act takes effect July 1,
19 2009.

20 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 5.** This act expires July 1, 2012."

21 Correct the title.

EFFECT: Strikes the entire text of the bill.

Requires the Department of Agriculture (Department) to conduct a competitive grant process to award a grant to a Title 26 U.S.C. Sec. 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization to develop and provide practical, hands-on training for the state's agricultural workers.

Requires the grant recipient to work with specific stakeholders to develop training in certain subject matters.

Provides that the grant recipient may receive up to 250,000 dollars per year.

Requires the Department to monitor the effectiveness of any training developed and provided.

Requires the Department to report to the appropriate committees of the Legislature by December 1st of each year beginning in 2008 on the implementation of agricultural worker training pursuant to: (1) The

budget proviso in the 2007-09 operating budget that provided the Department pass-through funding to the Opportunities Industrialization Center; and (2) the competitive grant program, as appropriate. The report shall include, as appropriate, information about the competitive grant process used and the grant recipient selected, any training developed and provided, the number of people trained, and any reduction in workplace injuries.

Provides for the competitive grant program provisions to take effect July 1, 2009, and for all the provisions to expire July 1, 2012.

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