**2226-S AMS LC S5079.1 - NOT FOR FLOOR USE**

**SHB 2226** - S COMM AMD

By Committee on Labor & Commerce

**ADOPTED AS AMENDED 02/28/2024**

Strike everything after the enacting clause and insert the following:

"NEW SECTION. **Sec.**  A new section is added to chapter 50.75 RCW to read as follows:

(1) Whenever the department conducts a field check or field visit of an employer, the department must collect the following information:

(a) The number of H-2A workers the employer has at each work site; and

(b) The actual geographic location of where the H-2A workers are living during their employment with the employer.

(2) The department must compile the information and compare the number of workers sought by an employer on the employer's H-2A application with the number of H-2A workers actually working for the employer.

(3) The department must make the information available to the advisory committee appointed under RCW 50.75.040 on a quarterly basis.

NEW SECTION. **Sec.**  A new section is added to chapter 50.38 RCW to read as follows:

(1) The department must conduct, or cause to be conducted, a comprehensive annual wage survey of non-H-2A workers hand harvesting apples, cherries, pears, and blueberries.

(2) At a minimum, the surveys must:

(a) Gather information on wage rates received for harvesting activities;

(b) Include a question concerning whether the survey respondent made an unemployment insurance claim in the same period of time used to compile any list of unemployment claimants used as a basis for the phone survey described in this section;

(c) Gather information on the respondent's age, gender, and whether the respondent was born in the United States or the number of years the respondent has lived in the United States; and

(d) Gather information on whether the respondent earned the reported wages while working on a farm that employed H-2A workers to do the same kind of work.

(3) The survey must:

(a) Be designed to receive responses from a minimum of 2,800 workers;

(b) Include field surveys designed to receive responses from a minimum of:

(i) 1,200 apple harvesters;

(ii) 200 pear harvesters;

(iii) 200 blueberry harvesters; and

(iv) 350 cherry harvesters.

(4) The survey may use a phone survey to gather the additional responses.

(5) The department must provide $25 incentive payments for survey respondents who are eligible to respond to the survey.

(6) The department must submit a report to the appropriate committees of the legislature annually by May 1st on surveys conducted under this section. The report must include:

(a) Information about the number of responses; and

(b) Individual responses, without names, including each respondent's answers to the inquiries described in subsection (2) of this section.

NEW SECTION. **Sec.**  If any part of this act is found to be in conflict with federal requirements that are a prescribed condition to the allocation of federal funds to the state, the conflicting part of this act is inoperative solely to the extent of the conflict and with respect to the agencies directly affected, and this finding does not affect the operation of the remainder of this act in its application to the agencies concerned. Rules adopted under this act must meet federal requirements that are a necessary condition to the receipt of federal funds by the state."

**SHB 2226** - S COMM AMD

By Committee on Labor & Commerce

**ADOPTED AS AMENDED 02/28/2024**

On page 1, line 2 of the title, after "harvesters;" strike the remainder of the title and insert "adding a new section to chapter 50.75 RCW; adding a new section to chapter 50.38 RCW; and creating a new section."

EFFECT: • Provides the Employment Security Department must make the information from field check or visits related to H-2A workers available to the advisory committee, rather than the Office of Agricultural and Seasonal Workforce Services.

• Modifies the wage survey question for unemployment claims to claims in the same period of time used to compile any list of UI claimants used as a basis for the phone survey.

• Requires the survey to gather information on whether the respondent earned the reported wages while working on a farm that employed H-2A workers to do the same kind of work.

• Provides that the survey be designed to receive responses from a minimum of 2,800 workers, rather than to receive responses from a minimum of 850 total fruit harvesters.

• Allows the use of a phone survey.

• Modifies the individual responses, without names, to include each respondent's answers to be included in the report to the Legislature.