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**SENATE BILL 5722**

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**State of Washington**                      **69th Legislature**                      **2025 Regular Session**

**By** Senators Saldaña, Chapman, Hasegawa, Lovelett, Trudeau, and Valdez

Read first time 02/11/25. Referred to Committee on Labor & Commerce.

1            AN ACT Relating to creating a grant program to promote local  
2 workforce development, reduce transportation pollution, and  
3 strengthen food sovereignty and climate and disaster resiliency;  
4 amending RCW 50.75.020; and adding a new section to chapter 50.75  
5 RCW.

6 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF WASHINGTON:

7            NEW SECTION.    **Sec. 1.**    A new section is added to chapter 50.75  
8 RCW to read as follows:

9            (1) A grant program is created to be administered by the  
10 department for farmers to:

- 11            (a) Promote hiring of local workers;  
12            (b) Reduce transportation pollution; and  
13            (c) Strengthen food sovereignty and climate and disaster  
14 resiliency.

15            (2) To qualify for a grant under this section, a farm must:

- 16            (a) Grow handpicked specialty crops that are:  
17            (i) Sold to consumers at local markets; or  
18            (ii) Sold or donated to local schools or food banks;  
19            (b) Hire only domestic agricultural workers; and  
20            (c) Be owned and operated by a state resident.

1 (3) Under the grant program, each farm submitting proof of  
2 eligibility for the grant program to the department may be offered  
3 grant funding in an amount up to the equivalent of eight weeks of  
4 their paid overtime hours during peak harvest for their specialty  
5 crop, up to \$40,000.

6 (4) For the purposes of this section, "local" means within 250  
7 miles of the farm where the specialty crop is grown.

8 **Sec. 2.** RCW 50.75.020 and 2019 c 441 s 3 are each amended to  
9 read as follows:

10 (1) The office of agricultural and seasonal workforce services is  
11 established within the department.

12 (2) The duties of the office are:

13 (a) Processing and adjudicating foreign labor certification  
14 applications from employers;

15 (b) Processing complaints consistent with 20 C.F.R. Part 658,  
16 Subpart E;

17 (c) Conducting field checks and field visits, as required by the  
18 United States department of labor. When conducting a field check, the  
19 office shall coordinate, to the extent possible, with the department  
20 of labor and industries, department of health, and department of  
21 agriculture in order to limit disruption to agricultural employers  
22 and efficiently use government resources;

23 (d) Administering the discontinuation and reinstatement of  
24 services process pursuant to 20 C.F.R. Part 658, Subpart F; ~~((and))~~

25 (e) Conducting training and outreach activities to employers who  
26 are using agricultural and seasonal workforce services and programs  
27 within the employment security department; and

28 (f) Administering the grant program established under section 1  
29 of this act.

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