
SUBSTITUTE SENATE BILL 5019

State of Washington

64th Legislature

2015 Regular Session

By Senate Agriculture, Water & Rural Economic Development (originally sponsored by Senator Honeyford)

1 AN ACT Relating to the agricultural labor skills and safety grant
2 program; adding a new section to chapter 43.330 RCW; creating a new
3 section; and providing an expiration date.

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

5 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** The legislature recognizes that Washington
6 is one of the most productive growing regions in the country and
7 Washington's agriculture is an integral part of this state's economic
8 health. The legislature also recognizes the agricultural industry's
9 need for skilled workers and the workers' need in upgrading their
10 agricultural skills and marketability. The legislature recognizes
11 that providing skills and safety training for agricultural workers,
12 including preparing workers to maintain and safely operate equipment,
13 helps ensure their success and safety in an agricultural environment,
14 and helps to ensure the continued success of Washington's
15 agricultural industry.

16 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** A new section is added to chapter 43.330
17 RCW to read as follows:

18 (1) Subject to the availability of amounts appropriated for this
19 specific purpose, the department shall create and administer the

1 agricultural labor skills and safety grant program that will provide
2 training opportunities for agricultural workers.

3 (2) The department shall select one recipient that has a
4 community-based organization with the ability to carry out the
5 objectives in subsection (3) of this section.

6 (3) The grant recipient shall provide training to agricultural
7 workers in workforce skills and safety training by working with
8 agricultural employee and agricultural employer organizations in:

9 (a) Designing and implementing an agricultural skills development
10 program;

11 (b) Developing a plan to increase the number of skilled
12 agricultural workers through a recruitment process;

13 (c) Providing agricultural health and safety training to its
14 participants;

15 (d) Conducting project evaluations on agricultural trainings and
16 service delivery strategies for agricultural workers and employers;

17 (e) Partnering with an agricultural employee and an agricultural
18 employer organization that has focused on agricultural labor and
19 employment issues and services for at least ten years, and that has
20 experience in providing training to agricultural employees in
21 developing and providing the training curriculum; and

22 (f) Delivering training through a service delivery system that is
23 sensitive to the unique needs of agricultural employers and
24 agricultural workers, including the barriers to employment for
25 agricultural workers.

26 (4) The grant recipient may receive up to seven hundred fifty
27 thousand dollars per year.

28 (5) This section expires July 1, 2018.

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