
SUBSTITUTE HOUSE BILL 1127

State of Washington

64th Legislature

2015 Regular Session

By House Labor (originally sponsored by Representatives Chandler and Sells)

READ FIRST TIME 02/19/15.

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 Washington agricultural
12 workers helps ensure their success and safety and helps to ensure the
13 continued success of Washington's agricultural industry.

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

16 (1) Subject to the availability of amounts appropriated for this
17 specific purpose, the department shall create and administer the
18 agricultural labor skills and safety grant program that will provide
19 training opportunities for Washington agricultural workers.

1 (2) The department shall select one recipient that has a
2 community-based organization whose primary mission is to provide
3 services to Washington agricultural workers and that has the ability
4 to carry out the objectives in subsection (3) of this section. The
5 department must ensure that the grant recipient gives priority to
6 Washington agricultural workers. The training is open to all workers
7 in Washington agriculture, and is intended to improve job
8 employability of workers who live in Washington state and to improve
9 the skills and knowledge of workers who work on a permanent, local
10 seasonal, or seasonal migrant basis, and who intend to return to
11 Washington state to work in Washington state agriculture.

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

15 (a) Designing and implementing an agricultural skills development
16 program;

17 (b) Developing a plan to increase the number of skilled
18 agricultural workers through outreach to Washington agricultural
19 workers;

20 (c) Providing agricultural health and safety training to its
21 participants and ensuring that participation in the training program
22 is voluntary;

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

25 (e) Partnering with an agricultural employee and an agricultural
26 employer organization that has focused on agricultural labor and
27 employment issues and services for Washington agricultural workers
28 for at least ten years, and that has experience in providing training
29 to agricultural employees in developing and providing the training
30 curriculum; and

31 (f) Delivering training through a service delivery system that is
32 sensitive to the unique needs of Washington agricultural employers
33 and agricultural workers, including the barriers to employment for
34 agricultural workers.

35 (4) The grant recipient may receive up to one million dollars per
36 year.

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

--- END ---