

One Hundred Eighth Legislature - Second Session - 2024

Introducer's Statement of Intent

LB844

Chairperson: Senator Steve Halloran

Committee: Agriculture

Date of Hearing: February 06, 2024

The following constitutes the reasons for this bill and the purposes which are sought to be accomplished thereby:

8 U.S.C 118(a)(1)(A) of the federal code stipulates that H-2A workers may be used for farm labor only when "there are not sufficient workers who are able, willing, and qualified..." Therefore, LB 844 is a bill clarifying how seed corn companies are to go about soliciting bids for contract labor for roguing and detasseling work and creating better transparency for disclosing whether companies with a valid certificate of exemption are being considered in the bidding process. A farm labor contractor may apply for a certificate of exemption only when 80% or more of their workforce is comprised of individuals 17 years of age or younger.

By August 1 of every year each seed corn company shall supply the Director of Agriculture with the number of acres used for planting seed corn, the name of each company under contract that is in possession of a valid certificate of exemption, and the name of each company under contract not in possession of a valid certificate of exemption. The report shall also include the number of acres that each contractor was assigned for roguing and detasseling work. The Director of Agriculture shall publish such information in a report to be posted on the Department's website no later than September 30 of each year.

The director of Agriculture shall prepare a directory of all companies in possession of a valid certificate of exemption and shall post the directory to the Department's website by April 1 of each year. AM 2208 further instructs the Director of Agriculture to send the directory to each seed corn company by way of registered mail on or before January 15 of each year.

Principal Introducer: _____

Senator Steve Erdman