

One Hundred Ninth Legislature - First Session - 2025

Introducer's Statement of Intent

LB573

Chairperson: Senator Kathleen Kauth

Committee: Business and Labor

Date of Hearing: February 24, 2025

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

LB573, The Meat, Poultry and Contract Workers Protection Act of 2025 seeks to protect the health of our workforce during avian flu and other future disruptions. These protections include;

Disaster mitigation planning to deal with animal disposal and develop emergency backup processing protocol;

Contract growers are included with the meatpacking workforce as essential and covered;

Includes workmans' comp for covered workers;

Provides at least two years of healthcare for covered workers impacted by a disaster event including avian flu and natural disasters;

Guarantees at least 12 weeks of severance pay for covered workers and at least 180 days of lost revenue for affected workers impacted by disaster events;

Increases labor standard for meatpacking and processing workers including whistleblower protections and protections from discrimination;

Provides mechanisms for affected covered workers to file civil rights of actions;

Empowers the Director of Labor to investigate and resolve all violations associated with worker protection provisions of this act; and

Sets up a task force to ensure good practices are maintained.

Principal Introducer: _____

Senator Dunixi Guereca