

REVENUE: No revenue impact

FISCAL: Fiscal statement issued

Action:	Do Pass as Amended and Be Printed Engrossed
Vote:	6 - 0 - 1
Yeas:	Boquist, Clem, Dingfelder, Macpherson, Smith P., Roblan
Nays:	0
Exc.:	Maurer
Prepared By:	Beth Patrino, Administrator
Meeting Dates:	4/19, 4/30

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES: Creates Task Force on Agricultural Workforce Needs. Directs the Speaker of the House and Senate President to appoint two legislative members each and to jointly appoint six additional members. The Governor is directed to appoint one member to represent the public. Establishes purpose of the task force. Directs the task force to study the current supply of and demand for agricultural labor, state and federal laws that address or affect the supply of agricultural labor, and the state and federal moneys available to address the needs of farmworkers and their families. Directs task force to study the H-2A visa program for temporary agricultural workers, including the efficacy of the program administered by the Employment Department. Declares emergency, effective on the 30th day after the date on which the legislature adjourns.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- H-2A visa program
- Agricultural labor supply issues

EFFECT OF COMMITTEE AMENDMENT: Adds direction to task force to study H-2A visa program.

BACKGROUND: The Oregon agricultural industry relies on agricultural labor to produce a wide variety of crops. HB 3512-A establishes a Task Force on Agricultural Workforce Needs to study the current supply of and demand for agricultural labor, state and federal laws that address or affect the supply of agricultural labor, and the state and federal moneys available to address the needs of farmworkers and their families. The task force is also directed to study the H-2A visa program for temporary agricultural workers and the efficacy of the program.