

REVENUE: No revenue impact

FISCAL: Fiscal statement issued

Action:	Do Pass the A-Engrossed Measure and Rescind the Subsequent Referral to the Committee on Ways and Means
Vote:	4 - 0 - 1
Yeas:	George L., Monnes Anderson, Starr, Metsger
Nays:	0
Exc.:	Deckert
Prepared By:	Janet Adkins, Administrator
Meeting Dates:	5/30

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES: Creates the Task Force on Agricultural Workforce Needs. Directs the Speaker of the House and the Senate President to appoint two legislative members each, and to jointly appoint six additional members. Directs the Governor to appoint one member to represent the public. Directs the task force to study the current supply of and demand for agricultural labor including state and federal laws that address or affect the supply of agricultural labor and state and federal moneys available to address the needs of farm workers and their families. Directs the task force to study the H-2A visa program for temporary agricultural workers, including the efficacy of the program administered by the Employment Department. Requires a report from the task force to the Senate President and Speaker of the House at least 30 days before the next regular session of the Legislature or at least 30 days before a special session convened pursuant to Senate Concurrent Resolution 1 (2007). Directs the Legislative Administration Committee to provide staff to the task force. Declares an emergency and takes effect on the 30th day after adjournment *sine die*.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Reduction in available farm workers since the terrorist attacks on the World Trade Center in 2001
- Effect on increased border enforcement and other policies
- Agricultural labor supply issues

EFFECT OF COMMITTEE AMENDMENT: No amendment.

BACKGROUND: Results of debate and policies at the national level over immigration and labor have a direct effect on Oregon, especially traditional work areas such as agriculture. The Oregon agricultural industry is dependent on a consistent supply of agricultural labor to produce its diversity of crops and products. Temporary and long-term labor shortages are of growing concern to farmers, suppliers, and processors.

House Bill 3512-A establishes a Task Force on Agricultural Workforce Needs to study labor supply and demand as they are affected by state and federal laws and funding. The task force is also directed to study the efficacy of the H-2A visa program for temporary agricultural workers.