

A-Engrossed
House Bill 3512

Ordered by the House May 9
Including House Amendments dated May 9

Sponsored by Representative RILEY; Representatives CLEM, COWAN, C EDWARDS, D EDWARDS, GALIZIO, HUNT, KOMP, MACPHERSON, ROBLAN

SUMMARY

The following summary is not prepared by the sponsors of the measure and is not a part of the body thereof subject to consideration by the Legislative Assembly. It is an editor's brief statement of the essential features of the measure.

Creates Task Force on Agricultural Workforce Needs.
Declares emergency, effective on 30th day following adjournment sine die.

A BILL FOR AN ACT

1
2 Relating to Task Force on Agricultural Workforce Needs; and declaring an emergency.

3 Whereas Oregonians recognize that Oregon's agricultural industry is one of Oregon's top in-
4 dustries; and

5 Whereas Oregonians recognize that Oregon's agricultural industry requires an adequate
6 workforce to meet the needs of the industry; and

7 Whereas agricultural labor requirements vary greatly among the different phases of planting,
8 cultivating, harvesting and processing, and the needs are complex and varied depending on the
9 product, such as nursery stock, wine grapes, wheat, grass seed, fruits or berries; and

10 Whereas agricultural labor is crucial to the production of a wide variety of crops in almost ev-
11 ery state in the nation; and

12 Whereas Oregonians rely upon farm workers to put food on their tables and to support an in-
13 dustry that benefits the state's economy; and

14 Whereas Oregonians support making positive and lasting changes for Oregon farm workers and
15 their families so that they can support themselves and the agricultural industry; and

16 Whereas Oregon's agricultural workforce continues to be composed primarily of immigrants,
17 including women and children, who work hard for the dollars they need to care for their families;
18 and

19 Whereas these families want to be economically self-sufficient, and they can achieve this goal
20 if they receive job training and other services that address their employment-related needs; and

21 Whereas the Legislative Assembly needs to identify effective ways to address the needs of
22 Oregon's agricultural industry and Oregon's agricultural workforce; and

23 Whereas Congress and this state need to find practical ways to provide agricultural labor for
24 our country and our state that will benefit the agriculture industry, farm workers and consumers;
25 and

26 Whereas Oregon's Congressional delegation needs to know what will work best for Oregon, in-
27 cluding whether to allow undocumented farm workers to earn the right to permanently stay in this
28 country by continuing to work in agriculture; and

NOTE: Matter in **boldfaced** type in an amended section is new; matter [*italic and bracketed*] is existing law to be omitted.
New sections are in **boldfaced** type.

1 Whereas the country will benefit if we can find bipartisan support using the principles set forth
2 above to develop comprehensive immigration reform that recognizes the needs of farm workers and
3 the agricultural industry; now, therefore,

4 **Be It Enacted by the People of the State of Oregon:**

5 **SECTION 1.** (1) There is created the Task Force on Agricultural Workforce Needs, con-
6 sisting of 11 members appointed as follows:

7 (a) The President of the Senate shall appoint two members from among members of the
8 Senate, one from the majority party and one from the minority party.

9 (b) The Speaker of the House of Representatives shall appoint two members from among
10 members of the House of Representatives, one from the majority party and one from the
11 minority party.

12 (c) The President and the Speaker shall jointly appoint:

13 (A) Two members who represent Oregon's agricultural industry;

14 (B) Two members who are farm workers or who represent farm workers;

15 (C) One member with expertise in workforce development; and

16 (D) One member with expertise in economic development.

17 (d) The Governor shall appoint one member who represents the public.

18 (2) All appointments to the task force made under subsection (1) of this section must be
19 completed by the later of 30 days after the effective date of this 2007 Act or August 1, 2007.

20 (3) The purpose of the task force is to perform the study described in subsections (4) and
21 (5) of this section and make recommendations on ways to balance the need of Oregon's ag-
22 ricultural industry for an adequate agricultural workforce and the needs of farm workers
23 and their families.

24 (4) The task force shall study:

25 (a) The current supply of and demand for agricultural labor;

26 (b) State and federal laws that address or affect the supply of agricultural labor; and

27 (c) The state and federal moneys available to address the needs of farm workers and
28 their families.

29 (5) The task force shall also study the H-2A visa program for temporary agricultural
30 workers established under the Immigration Reform and Control Act, including the efficacy
31 of the administration of the program by the Employment Department. The task force shall
32 determine whether the expansion of the program benefits efforts to meet agricultural
33 workforce needs. The task force shall report on the program as required under subsection
34 (12) of this section and shall include any recommendations related to the program.

35 (6) A majority of the members of the task force constitutes a quorum for the transaction
36 of business.

37 (7) Official action by the task force requires the approval of a majority of the members
38 of the task force.

39 (8) The President and the Speaker shall appoint one of the task force members to serve
40 as chairperson.

41 (9) If there is a vacancy for any cause, the appointing authority shall make an appoint-
42 ment to become immediately effective.

43 (10) The task force shall meet at times and places specified by the call of the chairperson
44 or of a majority of the members of the task force.

45 (11) The task force may adopt rules necessary for the operation of the task force.

1 **(12) The task force shall submit a report, and may include recommendations for legis-**
2 **lation, to the President and the Speaker no later than 30 days before the next regular session**
3 **of the Legislative Assembly or, if a special session is scheduled to convene pursuant to Sen-**
4 **ate Concurrent Resolution 1 (2007), 30 days before the special session.**

5 **(13) The Legislative Administration Committee shall provide staff support to the task**
6 **force.**

7 **(14) Members of the task force who are not members of the Legislative Assembly are**
8 **entitled to compensation and expenses incurred by them in the performance of their official**
9 **duties in the manner and amounts provided for in ORS 292.495. Claims for compensation and**
10 **expenses shall be paid out of funds appropriated to the Legislative Assembly for that pur-**
11 **pose.**

12 **(15) All agencies of state government, as defined in ORS 174.111, are directed to assist**
13 **the task force in the performance of its duties and, to the extent permitted by laws relating**
14 **to confidentiality, to furnish such information and advice as the members of the task force**
15 **consider necessary to perform their duties.**

16 **(16) The Legislative Administrator may accept, on behalf of the task force, contributions**
17 **of moneys and assistance from the United States Government or its agencies or from any**
18 **other source, public or private, and agree to conditions placed on the moneys not inconsis-**
19 **ent with the duties of the task force.**

20 **SECTION 2. Section 1 of this 2007 Act is repealed on the date of the convening of the next**
21 **regular biennial legislative session.**

22 **SECTION 3. This 2007 Act being necessary for the immediate preservation of the public**
23 **peace, health and safety, an emergency is declared to exist, and this 2007 Act takes effect**
24 **on the 30th day after the date on which the regular session of the Seventy-fourth Legislative**
25 **Assembly adjourns sine die.**