

**REVENUE:** No revenue impact

**FISCAL:** No fiscal impact

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<b>Action:</b>	Be Adopted
<b>Vote:</b>	7 - 0 - 1
<b>Yeas:</b>	Boone, Esquivel, Johnson, Schaufler, Sprenger, Clem, Jenson
<b>Nays:</b>	0
<b>Exc.:</b>	Cowan
<b>Prepared By:</b>	Beth Herzog, Administrator
<b>Meeting Dates:</b>	5/2

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**WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:** Urges Wage and Hour Division of United States Department of Labor to lessen restrictions on youth employment in forestry-related jobs.

**ISSUES DISCUSSED:**

- Limited employment opportunities in rural areas
- Opportunity to learn trade

**EFFECT OF COMMITTEE AMENDMENT:** No amendment.

**BACKGROUND:** Changes in federal Child Labor Rule §570.54 have required the Department of Labor to include fire fighting in the category of hazardous occupation and restricts youth from assisting fire crews. For nearly 40 years, youth between 16 and 18 years of age have been allowed to assist fire crews in a support capacity. Youth support crews are required to complete safety and classroom training designed to prepare them for the field. Scope of duties performed include: construction and maintenance of trails, identification and improvement of water sources, removal of vegetation from forest roads, equipment maintenance, routine patrols of forest lands, and support fire suppression activities on cold fires.