

**REVENUE:** No revenue impact

**FISCAL:** Fiscal statement issued

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<b>Action:</b>	Do Pass and Be Referred to the Committee on Ways and Means by Prior Reference
<b>Vote:</b>	6 - 1 - 3
<b>Yeas:</b>	Barton, Fagan, Holvey, Thompson, Witt, Doherty
<b>Nays:</b>	Thatcher
<b>Exc.:</b>	Kennemer, Matthews, Weidner
<b>Prepared By:</b>	Jan Nordlund, Administrator
<b>Meeting Dates:</b>	3/6, 3/13

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**WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:** Increases maximum fee Bureau of Labor and Industries can establish for farm labor contractor licenses and indorsements.

**ISSUES DISCUSSED:**

- Enactment of farm labor contractor law in 1959
- Number of licenses issued
- Licensing program operating at a deficit
- Fee schedule unchanged since 1999

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

**BACKGROUND:** A farm labor contractor is a person who 1) is paid to recruit, solicit, supply or employ workers to perform reforestation labor for another; 2) is paid to recruit, solicit, supply or employ workers to gather specified plants from public lands for sale or market prior to processing or manufacture; 3) is paid to recruit, solicit, supply or employ workers on behalf of an employer engaged in these activities; 4) who furnishes food or lodging in connection with recruiting or employing workers in these activities; 5) bids on contract offers for those activities; or 6) enters into a subcontract for any of those activities.

A person may not operate as a farm labor contractor without a valid license from the Bureau of Labor and Industries (BOLI). All licenses expire one year after issuance. BOLI has authority to set, by rule, a fee schedule for issuing and renewing licenses and indorsements; however, the Legislative Assembly has set a cap on the fee schedule. The current maximum fee ranges from \$100 to \$250, depending on the type of indorsement. House Bill 2113 increases the maximum by either \$50 or \$100, depending on the type of indorsement.

BOLI issues 250 to 300 licenses per year. The agency has one full-time employee to process and issue the licenses. Funding for the position is provided by the licensing fee. BOLI stated that the program has been operating at a deficit; the expected deficit for the 2013-15 biennium is \$40,000.