## A-Engrossed House Bill 3193

Ordered by the House March 28 Including House Amendments dated March 28

Sponsored by Representative MARSH, Senator PHAM K, Representative VALDERRAMA; Representatives CHAICHI, CHOTZEN, GAMBA, HUDSON, MUNOZ, NGUYEN H, Senator PATTERSON (Presession filed.)

## **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. The statement includes a measure digest written in compliance with applicable readability standards.

Digest: The Act would create a relief program to provide money to farmworkers who have lost income due to a disaster. (Flesch Readability Score: 63.8).

Requires the Oregon Health Authority to establish and implement a permanent farmworker disaster relief program.

Appropriates moneys out of the General Fund to the authority to carry out the program.

## A BILL FOR AN ACT

2 Relating to farmworker disaster relief.

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- 3 Be It Enacted by the People of the State of Oregon:
  - **SECTION 1. (1) As used in this section:**
  - (a) "Farmworker" means an individual who is or has been employed in Oregon in a lawful activity related to agriculture, farming, fishing, planting or harvesting Christmas trees, dairy, ranching, food processing, canning, slaughtering, packaging, butchering or a nursery.
    - (b) "Qualifying disaster" includes:
  - (A) A drought, wildfire, earthquake, hurricane, flood, excessive heat, tornado, winter storm, snowstorm, freeze, hail, smoke, tsunami, volcanic eruption or other adverse weather event.
    - (B) A pandemic or other public health crisis.
  - (C) A declaration of an emergency under ORS 401.165 or public health emergency under ORS 433.441 by the Governor.
  - (D) An emergency declaration related to public health or a natural disaster that is issued by a municipality, county or public health official.
  - (2) The Oregon Health Authority shall establish and implement a permanent farmworker disaster relief program to provide financial support to farmworkers who lose income or wages due to a qualifying disaster.
  - (3)(a) The authority shall enter into a contract with a worker relief organization to distribute financial support to eligible farmworkers under the program.
  - (b) To be eligible to enter into a contract with the authority under this subsection, a worker relief organization must:
  - (A) Be registered in the State of Oregon for at least six months prior to the date on which the contract is signed.
    - (B) Specialize in providing financial support to workers experiencing a financial hardship.

- (4) To be eligible to receive financial support under this section, a farmworker must submit to the worker relief organization evidence of:
- (a) A qualifying disaster that resulted in a loss of income or wages, including a loss of income due to slower work for piece-rate workers.
- (b) The specific zip code and county in which the farmworker was employed during the qualifying disaster described in paragraph (a) of this subsection.
- (c) Having experienced a financial hardship due to the qualifying disaster's impact on the ability of the farmworker to pay for reasonable and necessary living expenses.
- (5) The authority shall adopt rules necessary to carry out this section, including rules establishing application procedures for farmworkers to apply for financial support.

SECTION 2. In addition to and not in lieu of any other appropriation, there is appropriated to the Oregon Health Authority, for the biennium beginning July 1, 2025, out of the General Fund, the amount of \$10,000,000 for the purpose of carrying out the provisions of section 1 of this 2025 Act.