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SENATE BILL 5723

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State of Washington

60th Legislature

2007 Regular Session

By Senators Rasmussen, Clements, Hatfield, Roach, Shin, Morton, Kline, Schoesler, Haugen, Sheldon, Hargrove, Kohl-Welles, Fairley, Honeyford, Franklin, Keiser, Berkey, Kauffman, Kilmer, Jacobsen, Kastama, Benton, Zarelli and Parlette

Read first time 01/29/2007. Referred to Committee on Agriculture & Rural Economic Development.

1 AN ACT Relating to creating the community agricultural worker  
2 safety grant program; adding a new section to chapter 15.04 RCW;  
3 creating a new section; making appropriations; and providing an  
4 expiration date.

5 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF WASHINGTON:

6 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** The legislature finds that agricultural  
7 workers are challenged not only in finding full-time, year-round work,  
8 but also face difficulties in upgrading their agricultural skills. The  
9 legislature also finds that the agricultural industry's demand for  
10 skilled workers far outnumber the current supply. In addition, the  
11 legislature finds that despite recent advances in the safety of  
12 agricultural production, additional training of agricultural workers  
13 should assist the agricultural sector in ongoing efforts to reduce  
14 occupational injuries. The legislature therefore intends that training  
15 opportunities for agricultural workers be provided through a community  
16 agricultural worker safety grant program administered by the Washington  
17 state department of agriculture.

1        NEW SECTION.   **Sec. 2.**   A new section is added to chapter 15.04 RCW  
2   to read as follows:

3        The department shall administer the community agricultural worker  
4   safety grant program.   Grant recipients shall provide training for the  
5   state's agricultural workers in tractor and farm machinery skills and  
6   safety, pesticide training, adult basic skills, civics, English as a  
7   second language, commercial drivers' licensing, and other related  
8   topics.   A grant recipient may receive up to two hundred fifty thousand  
9   dollars per year.

10        NEW SECTION.   **Sec. 3.**   (1) The sum of two hundred fifty thousand  
11   dollars, or as much thereof as may be necessary, is appropriated for  
12   the fiscal year ending June 30, 2008, from the general fund to the  
13   department of agriculture for the purposes of this act.

14        (2) The sum of two hundred fifty thousand dollars, or as much  
15   thereof as may be necessary, is appropriated for the fiscal year ending  
16   June 30, 2009, from the general fund to the department of agriculture  
17   for the purposes of this act.

18        NEW SECTION.   **Sec. 4.**   Sections 1 and 2 of this act expire July 1,  
19   2012.

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