

# One Hundred Seventh Legislature - First Session - 2021

## Introducer's Statement of Intent

### LB241

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**Chairperson: Senator Ben Hansen**

**Committee: Business and Labor**

**Date of Hearing: March 01, 2021**

The following constitutes the reasons for this bill and the purposes which are sought to be accomplished thereby:

LB241 would enact health and safety protections for meatpacking workers during the COVID-19 pandemic, ending on December 31, 2021. These include:

- 6 foot radius of space around and between each worker, including in common spaces such as lunch rooms, break rooms, and locker rooms
- Free face masks and face shields for all employees, which would be replaced at least daily and more often as needed, such as when they become damaged or soiled
- Requirement that all individuals in meatpacking facilities wear a face mask while in the facility
- Regular disinfection of all frequently touched surfaces, installation and maintenance of ventilation systems that ensure unidirectional air flow, ventilation with outdoor air, and air filtration in both production and common areas
- Temperature screening and COVID-19 questionnaire completion before each time any individual enters the facility
- Paid work time for: any employee who may have been exposed to coronavirus to get tested, an employee who has tested positive for at least two weeks but as long as the worker is still showing symptoms.
- Requirement for employers to track coronavirus-related deaths and positive cases (daily and disaggregated by race and ethnicity) and report this information to DHHS, Department of Labor, Business and Labor Committee, and HHS Committee (weekly).
- Notification to workers who work near and/or at the same time as another employee who has tested positive for COVID-19

LB241 also gives the Department of Labor the authority to enforce these provisions, make unannounced workplace inspections, inspect employer records, make recommendations during inspection, file a report of its findings within 30 days following the inspection, and issue a citation and, if needed, an administrative penalty.

**Principal Introducer:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Senator Tony Vargas**