

ONE HUNDRED EIGHTH LEGISLATURE - SECOND SESSION - 2024
COMMITTEE STATEMENT
LB844

Hearing Date: Tuesday February 06, 2024
Committee On: Agriculture
Introducer: Erdman
One Liner: Change provisions of the Farm Labor Contractors Act

Roll Call Vote - Final Committee Action:
Advanced to General File with amendment(s)

Vote Results:

Aye:	7	Senators Brewer, Halloran, Hansen, Holdcroft, Hughes, Ibach, Riepe
Nay:		
Absent:	1	Senator Raybould
Present Not Voting:		

Testimony:

Proponents:

Senator Steve Erdman
Matthew Schultz
Nicole Anderson
Bethany Svoboda
Jonathan Ryan
Tori Ryan
John Hansen
Alex Rousseau
Heather Curry

Representing:

Opening Presenter
Self
Self
Self
Self
Self
Nebraska Farmers Union
Self
Self

Opponents:

Representing:

Neutral:

Representing:

* ADA Accommodation Written Testimony

Summary of purpose and/or changes:

LB 844 would insert a new provision into the Farm Labor Standards Act to require seed corn producers contracting for detasseling and roguing services to solicit bids from contractors who seasonally employ largely younger workers recruited locally. The bill would further require such producers to annually report the number of detasseling and roguing acres needed and the contract services utilized.

Section-by-section:

Sec. 1: Incorporates section 3 of the bill within the Farm Labor Contractors Act



Sec. 2: Amends §48-1702 which defines terms used throughout the Farm Labor Contractors Act. LB 844 adds two new defined terms for “detasseling” and “roguing”

Sec 3: Inserts a wholly new section creating duties for seed corn companies that contract for roguing or detasseling labor. Subsection (1) of this section would, beginning January 1, 2025, require seed corn producers in the state::

-- to solicit bids for services from providers with a valid certificate of exemption described in §48-1703

-- Submit annually a notarized form to the Director of Agriculture between Aug 1 and Sept. 1 disclosing the following information:

-- total seed corn acres planted in the state

-- the names of any exempt roguing and detasseling labor provider the seed producer contracted with and the total number of acres, by contractor, for which the seed producer utilized exempt contractor services

-- the names of any non-exempt roguing and detasseling labor contractors utilized by the seed producer and the total acres, by contractor, for which the producer utilized non exempt contractor services

Subsections (2) & (3) assigns a duty to the Director of Agriculture to publish:

-- Beginning Sept. 30, 2025 and each Sept 30 thereafter, a report compiling the information submitted by seed companies under subsection (1)

-- Beginning April 1, 2025 and updated each December 31 each year thereafter, a directory of exempt roguing and detasseling labor providers

Subsection (5) assigns rule and reg authority to the Department of Ag to carry out this section

Sec. 4: Amends §48-1714 which declares certain violations of the Act and misuses of farm contractor licenses to be a Class II misdemeanor. LB 844 adds a new subsection declaring a violation of the bid solicitation and reporting requirements in section 3 to be a Class IV misdemeanor.

Sec 5: Repealer

Explanation of amendments:

The committee amendment (AM2449) would replace current subsection (3) of section 3. The amendment would essentially insert an additional duty, beginning January 2026, to the Department of Agriculture to annually mail to each seed corn producers a directory of exempt detasseling/roguing contractors.

Steve Halloran, Chairperson

