

HOUSE RESEARCH

Bill Summary

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Subject: Rights of meatpacking workers

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Overview

This bill deals with the rights of meatpacking workers.

Section

1 Packinghouse workers bill of rights.

Subd. 1. Generally. States that meatpacking workers are entitled to certain rights, including the minimum workplace standards in this section.

Subd. 2. Right to organize. Provides that meatpacking workers in Minnesota have the right to organize without fear of harassment or reprisals.

Subd. 3. Right to a safe workplace. Requires employers to establish a safety committee of labor and management to address safety issues and complaints.

Subd. 4. Right to adequate facilities. Provides that the employer agrees to provide adequate restrooms, room for meals and other breaks, locker facilities, and time for restroom breaks.

Subd. 5. Right to adequate equipment. Gives workers the right to adequate equipment and provides that failure to do so should lead the safety committee to recommend corrective action by the employer.

Section

Subd. 6. Right to complete information. Requires that each packinghouse employee receive an employee manual that covers the items listed in this subdivision.

Subd. 7. Right to understand information provided. Requires that explanations of the worker's rights and duties be provided in the worker's native language.

Subd. 8. Right to existing state and federal benefits and rights. Requires employers to educate workers about their rights under worker's compensation and the state occupational safety and health act.

Subd. 9. Right to be free from discrimination. Requires employers not to discriminate against workers on the basis of illegal factors and to provide a harassment-free workplace.

Subd. 10. Right to compensation for work performed. Requires that employers pay workers the wages they have earned.

Subd. 11. Right to seek state help. Requires state agencies to assist workers and employers in regard to compliance with eight state laws listed in the subdivision.