

Subject Meatpacking workers

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Overview

Minnesota Statutes, section 179.86, the “Packinghouse Workers Bill of Rights” was passed in 2007. The Office of the Legislative Auditor evaluated the program and released its report in 2015. The report included recommendations for policy and technical changes. These included, clarifying the definition of “employer” under the law, clarifying the definition of “native language” under the law, and increase outreach to publicize the law to those affected.

Summary

Section	Description
1	Definition [§ 179.86, subd. 1] Clarifies the definition of “employer” under the Packinghouse Workers Bill of Rights law. The section defines employer as anyone employing 20 or more individuals, at a single location, who pack, can, or process poultry or meat, or an employer of any size whose employees regularly clean or sterilize meat or poultry processing equipment.
2	Information provided to employee by employer [§ 179.86, subd. 3] Changes the requirement that certain notices to employees must be in the employee’s “native language” to a requirement that the notice be in a language the “employee speaks fluently.”
3	Recruiting; required disclosure [§ 181.635, subd. 2] Changes the requirement that certain notices to workers being recruited into the food processing industry from being in English and Spanish, to being in a language the employee speaks fluently, as well as read aloud if the employee cannot read the language of the disclosure.
4	Appropriation Appropriates an unspecified amount to the commissioner of labor and industry for enforcement duties under the Packinghouse Workers Bill of Rights. At least half must be used for outreach and education.



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