

MAR 16 2001
LABOR & INDUSTRIAL RELATIONS

HOUSE FILE 633
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DOTZLER, FORD, and FALLON

Passed House, Date _____ Passed Senate, Date _____
Vote: Ayes _____ Nays _____ Vote: Ayes _____ Nays _____
Approved _____

A BILL FOR

1 An Act establishing a meatpacking industry workers bill of rights
2 and a meatpacking industry workers rights coordinator and
3 providing for a repeal.

4 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF IOWA:

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HF 633

1 Section 1. NEW SECTION. 84A.11 MEATPACKING INDUSTRY
2 WORKERS BILL OF RIGHTS.

3 Meatpacking industry workers in this state shall have the
4 following rights:

- 5 1. The right to organize.
- 6 2. The right to a safe workplace.
- 7 3. The right to adequate restroom and break facilities and
8 the opportunity to use them.
- 9 4. The right to complete information concerning existing
10 state and federal rights and benefits.
- 11 5. The right to understand the information provided.
- 12 6. The right to take advantage of existing state and
13 federal rights and benefits.
- 14 7. The right to be free from discrimination.
- 15 8. The right to continuing training, including training as
16 a supervisor.
- 17 9. The right to compensation for work performed.
- 18 10. The right to seek help from the state.

19 Sec. 2. NEW SECTION. 84A.12 MEATPACKING INDUSTRY WORKERS
20 RIGHTS COORDINATOR.

21 1. The position of meatpacking industry workers rights
22 coordinator is established within the department of workforce
23 development to inspect and review the practices and procedures
24 of meatpacking operations in the state of Iowa and to
25 determine whether those practices and procedures comply with
26 the Iowa meatpacking industry workers bill of rights. For the
27 purposes of this section, "meatpacking operations" means a
28 business which conducts slaughtering, butchering, meat
29 canning, meatpacking, meat manufacturing, poultry canning,
30 poultry packing, poultry manufacturing, pet feed
31 manufacturing, processing of meatpacking products, or
32 rendering operations.

33 2. The meatpacking industry workers rights coordinator
34 shall be appointed by the governor, subject to confirmation by
35 the senate pursuant to section 2.32, with preference given to

1 the appointment of a person who is fluent in the Spanish
2 language.

3 3. The coordinator and the coordinator's designated
4 representatives shall be authorized to enter, inspect, and
5 investigate all meatpacking operations in the state at any
6 time meatpacking products are being processed and meatpacking
7 industry workers are on the job.

8 4. The department of workforce development shall provide
9 necessary office space, furniture, equipment, supplies, and
10 other assistance as necessary to enable the coordinator to
11 carry out the duties established by this section.

12 5. The coordinator shall, on or before December 1 of each
13 year, submit a report to the members of the general assembly
14 and to the governor stating the coordinator's recommendations
15 regarding any changes needed to provide for the fair treatment
16 of workers in Iowa's meatpacking industry.

17 Sec. 3. This Act is repealed on June 30, 2004.

18 EXPLANATION

19 This bill adds a new section to Code chapter 84A which
20 establishes a new position of meatpacking industry workers
21 rights coordinator within the department of workforce
22 development. The coordinator is appointed by the governor
23 subject to senate confirmation, to inspect and review the
24 practices and procedures of meatpacking operations in the
25 state as they relate to the meatpacking industry workers bill
26 of rights which is also set forth in the bill. These rights
27 include the right to organize, to a safe workplace, to
28 adequate restroom and break facilities, to provision of
29 understandable information, to training, to freedom from
30 discrimination, to seek state and federal benefits, to
31 compensation for work performed, and to seek help from the
32 state.

33 The bill provides that the coordinator or designated
34 representatives have access to all meatpacking operations in
35 the state. The bill also provides that the coordinator shall

1 submit an annual report to the general assembly and to the
2 governor with recommendations for provision of fair treatment
3 to meatpacking industry workers. The bill terminates the
4 position of the coordinator on June 30, 2004.

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