

1 S.238

2 Introduced by Senator White

3 Referred to Committee on

4 Date:

5 Subject: Agriculture; farm workers; immigration

6 Statement of purpose: This bill proposes to create a farm guest worker
7 program to enable noncitizens and nonpermanent residents to establish
8 residency, identification, and work authorization on Vermont farms.

9 An act relating to establishing the Vermont farm guest worker program

10 It is hereby enacted by the General Assembly of the State of Vermont:

11 Sec. 1. 6 V.S.A. chapter 212 is added to read:

12 CHAPTER 212. THE VERMONT FARM GUEST WORKER PROGRAM

13 § 4730. PROGRAM ESTABLISHED

14 (a) There is established within the agency of agriculture, food and markets
15 a Vermont farm guest worker program, the purpose of which shall be to enable
16 noncitizen and nonpermanent resident aliens a means for registering with the
17 agency and establishing Vermont residency, identification, and authorization to
18 work on Vermont farms.

19 (b) The secretary shall adopt program policies, rules, and procedures:

1 (1) to create a registry of noncitizen and nonpermanent resident aliens
2 who are workers on a Vermont farm, which registry shall include the name,
3 date of birth, current address, and photograph of the worker, and the address of
4 the farm employing the worker;

5 (2) working in coordination with the department of motor vehicles or
6 such other party as the secretary determines is necessary or appropriate, to
7 adopt an application for, format of, and process for issuing a farm guest worker
8 identification card to each worker registered with the agency who submits a
9 completed application for an identification card, provided that the format for
10 the identification card shall include at a minimum:

11 (A) full legal name;

12 (B) current address, or alternatively if requested by the worker, the
13 address of the farm on which the worker is employed;

14 (C) date of birth;

15 (D) height, weight, and eye color; and

16 (E) a color photograph.

17 (3) to ensure the privacy and protection of personal information of
18 workers registered with the agency and of farms identified as employers of
19 guest workers.

1 § 4731. REGISTRATION; IDENTIFICATION CARDS; PUBLIC AND
2 PRIVATE SERVICES

3 (a) Notwithstanding any other law to the contrary, the valid guest worker
4 identification card of a worker registered with the secretary shall be sufficient
5 personal identification and proof of residency for:

6 (1) any state and local government benefits, services, duties, obligations,
7 or purposes;

8 (2) any benefits, services, duties, obligations, or purposes of a public or
9 private organization that receives state or local government funding;

10 (3) any public accommodation;

11 (4) any action or request by law enforcement; and

12 (5) any other matter or purpose that the secretary shall establish by rule
13 to accomplish the purposes of this chapter.

14 (b) A person who discriminates against a guest worker on the basis of his
15 or her status as such, refuses to provide a service or benefit to accommodate a
16 guest worker, or otherwise violates the provisions of this section shall be
17 subject to a fine of not more than \$1,000.00 per violation.

18 Sec. 2. EFFECTIVE DATE

19 This act shall take effect upon passage.