

**First Regular Session
Seventy-fourth General Assembly
STATE OF COLORADO**

INTRODUCED

LLS NO. 23-0585.01 Christopher McMichael x4775

HOUSE BILL 23-1094

HOUSE SPONSORSHIP

Lukens and Catlin,

SENATE SPONSORSHIP

Roberts and Pelton R.,

House Committees

Agriculture, Water & Natural Resources

Senate Committees

A BILL FOR AN ACT

101 **CONCERNING MODIFICATIONS TO THE AGRICULTURAL WORKFORCE**
102 **DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM.**

Bill Summary

(Note: This summary applies to this bill as introduced and does not reflect any amendments that may be subsequently adopted. If this bill passes third reading in the house of introduction, a bill summary that applies to the reengrossed version of this bill will be available at <http://leg.colorado.gov>.)

The bill makes the following changes to the agricultural workforce development program (program):

- Allows internships under the program to last for up to one year in duration; and
- Extends the repeal date of the program by 7 years to July 1, 2031.

Shading denotes HOUSE amendment. Double underlining denotes SENATE amendment.
Capital letters or bold & italic numbers indicate new material to be added to existing law.
Dashes through the words or numbers indicate deletions from existing law.

1 *Be it enacted by the General Assembly of the State of Colorado:*

2 **SECTION 1. Legislative declaration.** (1) The general assembly
3 finds and declares that:

4 (a) Finding qualified and trained agricultural employees,
5 especially young and beginning farmers and ranchers, remains a
6 significant challenge for farmers, ranchers, and agricultural businesses;

7 (b) Internships are a recognized way to build a talent pipeline and
8 career pathway to provide young and beginning farmers and ranchers
9 education, training, and hands-on experience;

10 (c) The agricultural workforce development program was
11 established in 2018 to find and train interns for Colorado farmers,
12 ranchers, and agricultural businesses and to begin building a well-trained
13 workforce for Colorado's agricultural industry;

14 (d) The agricultural workforce development program provides
15 financial incentives to farmers, ranchers, and agricultural businesses to
16 hire interns and provide the interns with the hands-on training and
17 experience needed to pursue a career in agriculture;

18 (e) The agricultural workforce development program has been
19 instrumental in training young and beginning farmers and ranchers and
20 in developing an experienced agricultural workforce, but the program is
21 currently scheduled for repeal in July 2024;

22 (f) By extending the duration of internships from six months to up
23 to one year, the agricultural workforce development program can provide
24 additional, year-round training and experience to interns and provide
25 farmers, ranchers, and agricultural businesses well-trained help
26 throughout different agricultural seasons; and

1 (g) Additionally, by extending the scheduled repeal date for the
2 agricultural workforce development program, the program will continue
3 to serve Colorado's farmers, ranchers, agricultural businesses, and the
4 next generation of agriculturalists.

5 **SECTION 2.** In Colorado Revised Statutes, 35-1-104.5, **amend**
6 (2) introductory portion, (2)(b)(II), and (4) as follows:

7 **35-1-104.5. Agricultural workforce development program -**
8 **legislative declaration - creation - rules - repeal.** (2) The commissioner
9 shall promulgate rules ~~by January 1, 2019,~~ creating the agricultural
10 workforce development program to provide incentives to agricultural
11 businesses to hire interns through partial reimbursement of internship
12 costs. The rules must specify, at a minimum:

13 (b) The criteria for an internship to qualify under the program,
14 including the following:

15 (II) The internship cannot exceed ~~six months~~ ONE YEAR in
16 duration per intern;

17 (4) This section is repealed, effective ~~July 1, 2024~~ JULY 1, 2031.

18 **SECTION 3. Safety clause.** The general assembly hereby finds,
19 determines, and declares that this act is necessary for the immediate
20 preservation of the public peace, health, or safety.