

## CHAPTER 108

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**AGRICULTURE**

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**HOUSE BILL 23-1094**

BY REPRESENTATIVE(S) Lukens and Catlin, Armagost, Bacon, Bird, Bockenfeld, Brown, English, Hamrick, Holtorf, Lieder, Lindsay, Lindstedt, Martinez, Mauro, McCormick, McLachlan, Michaelson Jenet, Ricks, Snyder, Soper, Taggart, Titone, Valdez, Vigil, Weinberg, Winter T., Woodrow, Young, McCluskie;  
also SENATOR(S) Roberts and Pelton R., Exum, Ginal, Hinrichsen, Marchman, Mullica, Pelton B., Simpson, Will, Fenberg.

**AN ACT****CONCERNING MODIFICATIONS TO THE AGRICULTURAL WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM.**

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

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

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

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

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

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

(e) The agricultural workforce development program has been instrumental in training young and beginning farmers and ranchers and in developing an

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*Capital letters or bold & italic numbers indicate new material added to existing law; dashes through words or numbers indicate deletions from existing law and such material is not part of the act.*

experienced agricultural workforce, but the program is currently scheduled for repeal in July 2024;

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

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

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

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

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

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

(4) This section is repealed, effective ~~July 1, 2024~~ JULY 1, 2029.

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

Approved: April 25, 2023