

ASSEMBLY BILL

No. 567

Introduced by Assembly Member Koretz

February 21, 2001

An act to add Section 6403.5 to the Labor Code, relating to employment.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

AB 567, as introduced, Koretz. Agricultural employees: length of hand-held tool handles.

Existing occupational safety and health standards adopted by the Occupational Safety and Health Standards Board prohibit the use of short-handled hand tools in agricultural operations for, among other things, weeding.

This bill would require employers to furnish and require agricultural employees to use hand-held tools with handles no less than 48 inches long while weeding, thinning, or hot-capping. Because certain violations of this prohibition would be criminal offenses, the bill would impose a state-mandated local program.

The California Constitution requires the state to reimburse local agencies and school districts for certain costs mandated by the state. Statutory provisions establish procedures for making that reimbursement.

This bill would provide that no reimbursement is required by this act for a specified reason.

Vote: majority. Appropriation: no. Fiscal committee: yes. State-mandated local program: yes.

The people of the State of California do enact as follows:

1 SECTION 1. Section 6403.5 is added to the Labor Code, to
2 read:

3 6403.5. Employers shall furnish and require every person
4 employed in agricultural operations to use a hand-held tool with
5 a handle at least 48 inches long while weeding, thinning, or
6 hot-capping.

7 SEC. 2. No reimbursement is required by this act pursuant to
8 Section 6 of Article XIII B of the California Constitution because
9 the only costs that may be incurred by a local agency or school
10 district will be incurred because this act creates a new crime or
11 infraction, eliminates a crime or infraction, or changes the penalty
12 for a crime or infraction, within the meaning of Section 17556 of
13 the Government Code, or changes the definition of a crime within
14 the meaning of Section 6 of Article XIII B of the California
15 Constitution.

