



**House
Legislative
Analysis
Section**

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PER DIEM COMP. FOR AGRIC. LABOR COMM.

RECEIVED

House Bill 4551 as introduced
First Analysis (4-27-89)

MAY 23 1989

Sponsor: Rep. Joseph Young, Jr.
Committee: State Affairs

Mich. State Law Library

THE APPARENT PROBLEM:

The Commission on Agricultural Labor consists of three migrant workers, three farmers, three public members, and two seasonal workers. Its members are required by the Executive Organization Act to serve without compensation other than reimbursement for expenses. The lack of adequate compensation for private individuals who must sacrifice wages for commission meetings discourages attendance at those meetings and creates difficulties in recruiting and retaining members. Payment of reasonable per diem compensation, commonplace in such situations, would resolve these difficulties. The labor department's appropriations act for fiscal year 1988-89 sets aside \$5,500 for per diem compensation for the commission's members, but in order for the funds to be disbursed, the act must be amended to authorize the compensation.

THE CONTENT OF THE BILL:

The bill would amend the Executive Organization Act to provide that members of the Agricultural Labor Commission could receive per diem compensation.

MCL 16.490

FISCAL IMPLICATIONS:

According to the House Fiscal Agency, the bill would cost the state \$5,500, assuming \$50 per member for 10 meetings annually. (4-26-89)

ARGUMENTS:

For:

In authorizing per diem compensation for the members of the Agricultural Labor Commission, the bill would encourage participation by qualified persons who could not afford the financial sacrifices which would otherwise be demanded. Further, it has been noted by some that some decisions recently made by the commission have been slanted in favor of farmer interests due to lack of labor representation on the commission. The bill would facilitate more equitable solutions to matters facing the commission. Further, enactment of the bill would free funds already appropriated for this purpose.

POSITIONS:

The Department of Labor supports the bill. (4-26-89)

The Agricultural Labor Commission supports the bill. (4-26-89)

The Michigan Farm Bureau supports the bill. (4-26-89)

The Department of Management and Budget has no position on the bill. (4-26-89),

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