

WILLIAM DONALD SCHAEFER, Governor

Under current law, it is the farm labor contractor's responsibility to register, while the Commissioner attempts to facilitate that registration. Senate Bill 355 would shift the burden of registration from the contractor to the Commissioner. Contractors who fail to register might argue that their failure to register was actually the fault of the Commissioner for not having first contacted them.

Moreover, Senate Bill 355 would prohibit the Commissioner of Labor and Industry from requiring that a farm labor contractor insure vehicles used to transport migrant workers with a company authorized to do business in Maryland. Requiring the insurer to be authorized to do business in Maryland provides important safeguards for Maryland citizens who may be involved in an accident with an out-of-state contractor. The requirement ensures that the contractor's vehicles are insured by a company meeting Maryland's strict solvency standards, and thus able to pay any proper claim. It further ensures that the Maryland Insurance Commissioner will have jurisdiction over the insurer's handling of any claims. I believe Maryland citizens should continue to have these protections from out-of-state contractors who use Maryland's roads for extended periods of time.

Since I believe that Maryland's current Farm Labor Contractor Registration Act is necessary, fair, and operating successfully, I have vetoed Senate Bill 355.

Sincerely,  
William Donald Schaefer  
Governor

Senate Bill No. 355

AN ACT concerning

**Migrant Agricultural Workers – Farm Labor Contractor Registration Contractors**

FOR the purpose of ~~repealing the provisions of certain laws requiring certain persons to verify a certificate of registration before using the services of a farm labor contractor concerning migrant agricultural workers; and generally relating to the repeal of certain requirements before certain persons engage or use the services of a farm labor contractor~~ requiring the Commissioner of Labor and Industry to coordinate with certain agencies to assist certain farm contractors in a certain registration process; requiring that certain registration assistance be provided; requiring that certain farmers be notified on the status of certain farm labor contractors; altering certain insurance requirements; and generally relating to the registration of farm labor contractors.

BY repealing

~~Article 100 – Work, Labor and Employment~~

~~Section 80D~~

~~Annotated Code of Maryland~~

~~(1985 Replacement Volume and 1989 Supplement)~~