
OLR Bill Analysis

sHB 6241

AN ACT CONCERNING AGRITOURISM.

SUMMARY

This bill grants immunity from civil liability to agritourism businesses that offer the general public the opportunity to observe or participate in agriculture-related activities on a farm (e.g., you-pick operations, corn mazes, hay rides, farm markets), whether or not for a fee. Under the bill, an agritourism provider (i.e. an agritourism activity's owner, operator, or sponsor and their employee) is not civilly liable for a participant's property damage or personal injury resulting from an agritourism activity's inherent risks (see below).

The bill provides limitations on the immunity granted. Specifically, an agritourism provider will be liable for harm to a participant if the provider (1) acts negligently or with willful or wanton disregard for the participant's safety, (2) purposely causes a participant's personal injury or property damage, or (3) commits criminal conduct that causes a participant's personal injury or property damage.

EFFECTIVE DATE: October 1, 2025

INHERENT RISKS

Under the bill, a "risk inherent in an agritourism activity" is any danger or condition that is an integral part of the activity, including the following:

1. the land's surface and subsurface conditions;
2. the behavior or actions of wild animals that the agritourism provider does not keep or control;
3. the behavior or actions of livestock or domestic animals (other than damage by a dog when the dog is not provoked);

4. ordinary dangers associated with land, structures, animals, or equipment typically used in agriculture or agritourism activities;
5. the possibility of sustaining injury, property damage, or illness from being near to or having contact with structures, equipment, animals, animal feed, farm chemicals, or animal waste; and
6. the possibility that an activity participant may act negligently, including by not (a) following the agritourism provider's instructions or (b) exercising reasonable care during the activity.

COMMITTEE ACTION

Environment Committee

Joint Favorable Substitute

Yea 32 Nay 0 (03/24/2025)