

SIXTY NINTH LEGISLATURE - REGULAR SESSION

NINETIETH DAY

House Chamber, Olympia, Saturday, April 12, 2025

The House was called to order at 9:30 a.m. by the Speaker (Representative Simmons presiding). The Clerk called the roll and a quorum was present.

The flags were escorted to the rostrum by a Sergeant at Arms Color Guard, Ria Johnson and Samantha Snow. The Speaker (Representative Simmons presiding) led the Chamber in the Pledge of Allegiance. The prayer was offered by Representative Ed Orcutt, 20th Legislative District.

Reading of the Journal of the previous day was dispensed with and it was ordered to stand approved.

There being no objection, the House advanced to the fourth order of business.

INTRODUCTION & FIRST READING

HB 2076 by Representatives Walsh, Ley, Jacobsen, Marshall, Corry and Caldier

AN ACT Relating to creating the Washington department of government efficiency; amending RCW 44.80.020 and 44.90.020; reenacting and amending RCW 44.04.260 and 43.88.230; adding a new section to chapter 34.05 RCW; adding a new chapter to Title 43 RCW; making an appropriation; providing an expiration date; and declaring an emergency.

Referred to Committee on State Government & Tribal Relations.

There being no objection, the bill listed on the day's introduction sheet under the fourth order of business was referred to the committee so designated.

There being no objection, the House advanced to the sixth order of business.

SECOND READING

SENATE BILL NO. 5110, by Senators Kauffman, Chapman, Dhingra, Frame, Hasegawa, Lias, Lovelett, Nobles, Riccelli, Saldaña, Shewmake, Slatter, Valdez and Wellman

Providing tuition waivers for tribal elders at Washington's community and technical colleges.

The bill was read the second time.

There being no objection, the rules were suspended, the second reading considered the third and the bill was placed on final passage.

Representatives Stearns and Ybarra spoke in favor of the passage of the bill.

MOTION

On motion of Representative Griffey, Representatives Eslick, McEntire and Mendoza were excused.

The Speaker (Representative Simmons presiding) stated the question before the House to be the final passage of Senate Bill No. 5110.

ROLL CALL

The Clerk called the roll on the final passage of Senate Bill No. 5110, and the bill passed the House by the following vote: Yeas, 78; Nays, 17; Absent, 0; Excused, 3

Voting Yea: Representatives Abbarno, Barkis, Barnard, Berg, Bergquist, Bernbaum, Berry, Bronoske, Callan, Chase, Connors, Cortes, Davis, Dent, Doglio, Donaghy, Duerr, Dye, Entenman, Farivar, Fey, Fitzgibbon, Fosse, Goodman, Gregerson, Hackney, Hill, Hunt, Jacobsen, Keaton, Kloba, Leavitt, Lekanoff, Ley, Low, Macri, Manjarrez, Mena, Morgan, Nance, Obras, Orcutt, Ormsby, Ortiz-Self, Parshley, Paul, Peterson, Pollet, Ramel, Reed, Reeves, Richards, Rule, Ryu, Salahuddin, Santos, Schmick, Schmidt, Scott, Shavers, Simmons, Springer, Stearns, Stokesbary, Stonier, Street, Stuebe, Taylor, Thai, Tharinger, Thomas, Timmons, Walen, Waters, Wylie, Ybarra, Zahn and Mme. Speaker

Voting Nay: Representatives Abell, Burnett, Caldier, Corry, Couture, Dufault, Engell, Graham, Griffey, Klicker, Marshall, McClintock, Penner, Rude, Steele, Volz and Walsh

Excused: Representatives Eslick, McEntire and Mendoza

SENATE BILL NO. 5110, having received the necessary constitutional majority, was declared passed.

SENATE BILL NO. 5138, by Senators Saldaña, Dhingra, Hasegawa and Nobles

Concerning public facilities districts.

The bill was read the second time.

Representative Santos moved the adoption of amendment (1008):

On page 5, after line 11, insert the following:

"(a) "Community-initiated equitable development" means strategic capacity-building and capital investments that are determined and directed by communities who have experienced significant historical and ongoing social and economic vulnerabilities with the purpose to offset disparities, prevent or reduce displacement, address marginalization, and improve access to opportunities, resources, and outcomes."

Renumber the remaining subsections consecutively and correct any internal references accordingly.

Representatives Santos and Orcutt spoke in favor of the adoption of the amendment.

Amendment (1008) was adopted.

Representative Orcutt moved the adoption of amendment (1016):

On page 7, after line 7, insert the following:

"NEW SECTION. Sec. 2. This act expires July 1, 2035."

Representatives Orcutt and Santos spoke in favor of the adoption of the amendment.

Amendment (1016) was adopted.

There being no objection, the rules were suspended, the second reading considered the third and the bill, as amended by the House, was placed on final passage.

Representatives Santos and Orcutt spoke in favor of the passage of the bill.

MOTION

On motion of Representative Leavitt, Representative Reed was excused.

The Speaker (Representative Simmons presiding) stated the question before the House to be the final passage of Senate Bill No. 5138, as amended by the House.

ROLL CALL

The Clerk called the roll on the final passage of Senate Bill No. 5138, as amended by the House, and the bill passed the House by the following vote: Yeas, 62; Nays, 32; Absent, 0; Excused, 4

Voting Yea: Representatives Berg, Bergquist, Bernbaum, Berry, Bronoske, Callan, Cortes, Davis, Doglio, Donaghy, Duerr, Engell, Entenman, Farivar, Fey, Fitzgibbon, Fosse, Goodman, Gregerson, Hackney, Hill, Hunt, Jacobsen, Kloba, Leavitt, Lekanoff, Macri, Mena, Morgan, Nance, Obras, Orcutt, Ormsby, Ortiz-Self, Parshley, Paul, Peterson, Pollet, Ramel, Reeves, Richards, Rule, Ryu, Salahuddin, Santos, Scott, Shavers, Simmons, Springer, Stearns, Steele, Stonier, Street, Taylor, Thai, Tharinger, Thomas, Timmons, Walen, Wylie, Zahn and Mme. Speaker

Voting Nay: Representatives Abbarno, Abell, Barkis, Barnard, Burnett, Caldier, Chase, Connors, Corry, Couture, Dent, Dufault, Dye, Graham, Griffey, Keaton, Klicker, Ley, Low, Manjarrez, Marshall, McClintock, Penner, Rude, Schmick, Schmidt, Stokesbary, Stuebe, Volz, Walsh, Waters and Ybarra

Excused: Representatives Eslick, McEntire, Mendoza and Reed

SENATE BILL NO. 5138, as amended by the House, having received the necessary constitutional majority, was declared passed.

SENATE BILL NO. 5632, by Senators Hansen, Hasegawa, Saldaña, Stanford, Trudeau and Valdez

Protecting the confidentiality of records and information that may be relevant to another state's enforcement of its laws.

The bill was read the second time.

There being no objection, the rules were suspended, the second reading considered the third and the bill was placed on final passage.

Representative Taylor spoke in favor of the passage of the bill.

Representatives Walsh, Dufault, Abell and Graham spoke against the passage of the bill.

The Speaker (Representative Simmons presiding) stated the question before the House to be the final passage of Senate Bill No. 5632.

ROLL CALL

The Clerk called the roll on the final passage of Senate Bill No. 5632, and the bill passed the House by the following vote: Yeas, 58; Nays, 36; Absent, 0; Excused, 4

Voting Yea: Representatives Berg, Bergquist, Bernbaum, Berry, Bronoske, Callan, Cortes, Davis, Doglio, Donaghy, Duerr, Entenman, Farivar, Fey, Fitzgibbon, Fosse, Goodman, Gregerson, Hackney, Hill, Hunt, Kloba, Leavitt, Lekanoff, Macri, Mena, Morgan, Nance, Obras, Ormsby, Ortiz-Self, Parshley, Paul, Peterson, Pollet, Ramel, Reeves, Richards, Rule, Ryu, Salahuddin, Santos, Scott, Shavers, Simmons, Springer, Stearns, Stonier, Street, Taylor, Thai, Tharinger, Thomas, Timmons, Walen, Wylie, Zahn and Mme. Speaker

Voting Nay: Representatives Abbarno, Abell, Barkis, Barnard, Burnett, Caldier, Chase, Connors, Corry, Couture, Dent, Dufault, Dye, Engell, Graham, Griffey, Jacobsen, Keaton, Klicker, Ley, Low, Manjarrez, Marshall, McClintock, Orcutt, Penner, Rude, Schmick, Schmidt, Steele, Stokesbary, Stuebe, Volz, Walsh, Waters and Ybarra

Excused: Representatives Eslick, McEntire, Mendoza and Reed

SENATE BILL NO. 5632, having received the necessary constitutional majority, was declared passed.

SUBSTITUTE SENATE BILL NO. 5040, Stanford, Holy, Saldaña, Lovick, Wilson, J., Conway, Hasegawa, Valdez and Wellmanby Senate Committee on Labor & Commerce (originally sponsored by Stanford, Holy, Saldaña, Lovick, Wilson, J., Conway, Hasegawa, Valdez and Wellman)

Expanding the definition of uniformed personnel to all law enforcement officers employed by a city, town, county, or governing body of a municipal airport operating under the provisions of chapter 14.08 RCW.

The bill was read the second time.

There being no objection, the rules were suspended, the second reading considered the third and the bill was placed on final passage.

Representative Bronoske spoke in favor of the passage of the bill.

The Speaker (Representative Simmons presiding) stated the question before the House to be the final passage of Substitute Senate Bill No. 5040.

ROLL CALL

The Clerk called the roll on the final passage of Substitute Senate Bill No. 5040, and the bill passed the House by the following vote: Yeas, 59; Nays, 35; Absent, 0; Excused, 4

Voting Yea: Representatives Berg, Bergquist, Bernbaum, Berry, Bronoske, Callan, Cortes, Davis, Doglio, Donaghy, Duerr, Entenman, Farivar, Fey, Fitzgibbon, Fosse, Goodman, Gregerson, Hackney, Hill, Hunt, Kloba, Leavitt, Lekanoff, Low, Macri, Mena, Morgan, Nance, Obras, Ormsby, Ortiz-Self, Parshley, Paul, Peterson, Pollet, Ramel, Reeves, Richards, Rule, Ryu, Salahuddin, Santos, Scott, Shavers, Simmons, Springer, Stearns, Stonier, Street, Taylor, Thai, Tharinger, Thomas, Timmons, Walen, Wylie, Zahn and Mme. Speaker

Voting Nay: Representatives Abbarno, Abell, Barkis, Barnard, Burnett, Caldier, Chase, Connors, Corry, Couture, Dent, Dufault, Dye, Engell, Graham, Griffey, Jacobsen, Keaton, Klicker, Ley, Manjarrez, Marshall, McClintock, Orcutt, Penner, Rude, Schmick, Schmidt, Steele, Stokesbary, Stuebe, Volz, Walsh, Waters and Ybarra

Excused: Representatives Eslick, McEntire, Mendoza and Reed

SUBSTITUTE SENATE BILL NO. 5040, having received the necessary constitutional majority, was declared passed.

ENGROSSED SENATE BILL NO. 5471, by Senators Goeher, Bateman, Chapman, Frame, Liias, Nobles and Saldaña

Authorizing middle housing in unincorporated growth areas and unincorporated urban growth areas, certain limited areas of more intensive rural development, and fully contained communities.

The bill was read the second time.

There being no objection, the committee striking amendment by the Committee on Housing was adopted. For Committee amendment, see Journal, Day 74, Thursday, March 27, 2025.

There being no objection, the rules were suspended, the second reading considered the third and the bill, as amended by the House, was placed on final passage.

Representatives Low, Peterson, Engell and Orcutt spoke in favor of the passage of the bill.

Representative Dufault spoke against the passage of the bill.

The Speaker (Representative Simmons presiding) stated the question before the House to be the final passage of Engrossed Senate Bill No. 5471, as amended by the House.

ROLL CALL

The Clerk called the roll on the final passage of Engrossed Senate Bill No. 5471, as amended by the House, and the bill passed the House by the following vote: Yeas, 90; Nays, 4; Absent, 0; Excused, 4

Voting Yea: Representatives Abbarno, Abell, Barkis, Barnard, Berg, Bergquist, Bernbaum, Berry, Bronoske, Burnett, Caldier, Callan, Chase, Connors, Corry, Cortes, Couture, Davis, Dent, Doglio, Donaghy, Duerr, Dye, Engell, Entenman, Farivar, Fey, Fitzgibbon, Fosse, Goodman, Graham, Gregerson, Griffey, Hackney, Hill, Hunt, Jacobsen, Keaton, Klicker, Kloba, Leavitt, Lekanoff, Ley, Low, Macri, Manjarrez, Marshall, McClintock, Mena, Morgan, Nance, Obras, Orcutt, Ormsby, Ortiz-Self, Parshley, Paul, Penner, Peterson, Pollet, Ramel, Reeves, Richards, Rude, Rule, Ryu, Salahuddin, Santos, Schmick, Schmidt, Scott, Shavers, Simmons, Springer, Stearns, Steele, Stokesbary, Stonier, Street, Taylor, Thai, Tharinger, Thomas, Timmons, Volz, Walen, Wylie, Ybarra, Zahn and Mme. Speaker

Voting Nay: Representatives Dufault, Stuebe, Walsh and Waters

Excused: Representatives Eslick, McEntire, Mendoza and Reed

ENGROSSED SENATE BILL NO. 5471, as amended by the House, having received the necessary constitutional majority, was declared passed.

SUBSTITUTE SENATE BILL NO. 5253, Cortes, Chapman, Conway, Frame, Krishnadasan, Liias, Nobles, Shewmake, Trudeau, Valdez and Wilson, C.by Senate Committee on Early Learning & K-12 Education (originally sponsored by Cortes, Chapman, Conway, Frame, Krishnadasan, Liias, Nobles, Shewmake, Trudeau, Valdez and Wilson, C.)

Extending special education services to students with disabilities until the end of the school year in which the student turns 22.

The bill was read the second time.

There being no objection, the committee striking amendment by the Committee on Appropriations was adopted. For Committee amendment, see Journal, Day 86, Tuesday, April 8, 2025.

There being no objection, the rules were suspended, the second reading considered the third and the bill, as amended by the House, was placed on final passage.

Representatives Pollet, Couture, Jacobsen and Dufault spoke in favor of the passage of the bill.

The Speaker (Representative Simmons presiding) stated the question before the House to be the final passage of Substitute Senate Bill No. 5253, as amended by the House.

ROLL CALL

The Clerk called the roll on the final passage of Substitute Senate Bill No. 5253, as amended by the House, and the bill passed the House by the following vote: Yeas, 93; Nays, 1; Absent, 0; Excused, 4

Voting Yea: Representatives Abbarno, Abell, Barkis, Barnard, Berg, Bergquist, Bernbaum, Berry, Bronoske, Burnett, Caldier, Callan, Chase, Connors, Corry, Cortes, Couture, Davis, Dent, Doglio, Donaghy, Duerr, Dufault, Dye, Engell, Entenman, Farivar, Fey, Fitzgibbon, Fosse, Goodman, Graham, Gregerson, Griffey, Hackney, Hill, Hunt, Jacobsen, Keaton, Klicker, Kloba, Leavitt, Lekanoff, Ley, Low, Macri, Manjarrez, Marshall, McClintock, Mena, Morgan, Nance, Obras, Orcutt, Ormsby, Ortiz-Self, Parshley, Paul, Penner, Peterson, Pollet, Ramel, Reeves, Richards, Rude, Rule, Ryu, Salahuddin, Santos, Schmick, Schmidt, Scott, Shavers, Simmons, Springer, Stearns, Steele, Stokesbary, Stonier, Street, Stuebe, Taylor, Thai, Tharinger, Thomas, Timmons, Volz, Walen, Waters, Wylie, Ybarra, Zahn and Mme. Speaker

Voting Nay: Representative Walsh

Excused: Representatives Eslick, McEntire, Mendoza and Reed

SUBSTITUTE SENATE BILL NO. 5253, as amended by the House, having received the necessary constitutional majority, was declared passed.

The Speaker (Representative Simmons presiding) called upon Representative Shavers to preside.

SECOND READING

ENGROSSED SUBSTITUTE SENATE BILL NO. 5041, Riccelli, Conway, Hasegawa, Saldaña, Salomon, Stanford, Dhingra, Nobles, Trudeau, Valdez, Bateman, Lovelett, Cleveland, Frame, Orwall, Pedersen, Slatter, Wellman and Wilson, C.by Senate Committee on Labor & Commerce (originally sponsored by Riccelli, Conway, Hasegawa, Saldaña, Salomon, Stanford, Dhingra, Nobles, Trudeau, Valdez, Bateman, Lovelett, Cleveland, Frame, Orwall, Pedersen, Slatter, Wellman and Wilson, C.)

Concerning unemployment insurance benefits for striking or lockout workers.

The bill was read the second time.

With the consent of the House, amendments (1124), (1125), (1131), (1138), (1139), (1087) and (1137) were withdrawn.

Representative Schmick moved the adoption of amendment (1126):

On page 2, line 14, after "(3)" strike "(a) Any" and insert "((Any)) (a) Except as provided in (b) of this subsection, any"

On page 2, line 22, after "(b)" insert "If the separating employer is a health care facility, including any hospital, ambulatory surgical facility, clinic, or other entity employing health care professionals, the disqualification imposed under this section remains in effect until the strike is terminated, unless the individual is exempt from the disqualification under subsection (2) of this section.

(c) "

Representatives Schmick and Marshall spoke in favor of the adoption of the amendment.

Representative Parshley spoke against the adoption of the amendment.

Amendment (1126) was not adopted.

Representative Keaton moved the adoption of amendment (1127):

On page 2, line 14, after "(3)" strike "(a) Any" and insert "((Any)) (a) Except as provided in (b) of this subsection, any"

On page 2, line 22, after "(b)" insert "If the separating employer is a public school district, the disqualification imposed under this section remains in effect until the strike is terminated, unless the individual is exempt from the disqualification under subsection (2) of this section.

(c)"

Representatives Keaton, Caldier, Schmidt, Dufault and Walsh spoke in favor of the adoption of the amendment.

Representative Fosse spoke against the adoption of the amendment.

Amendment (1127) was not adopted.

Representative Couture moved the adoption of amendment (1134):

On page 2, line 14, after "(3)" strike "(a) Any" and insert "((Any)) (a) Except as provided in (b) of this subsection, any"

On page 2, line 22, after "(b)" insert "The disqualification under this section remains in effect until any applicable labor organization representing the workers participating in the strike has exhausted any available strike funds dedicated by the organization for the purpose of providing financial assistance to striking workers. Before receiving benefits under this title, the worker must submit certification from the labor organization in a form and manner determined by the department confirming that such strike funds have been exhausted.

(c)"

Representatives Couture and Jacobsen spoke in favor of the adoption of the amendment.

Representative Berry spoke against the adoption of the amendment.

Amendment (1134) was not adopted.

Representative Connors moved the adoption of amendment (1129):

On page 2, line 16, after "(i) The" strike "second" and insert "fourth"

Representatives Connors, Walsh and Jacobsen spoke in favor of the adoption of the amendment.

Representative Parshley spoke against the adoption of the amendment.

Amendment (1129) was not adopted.

Representative Abell moved the adoption of amendment (1136):

On page 2, line 17, after "that" insert ": (A) The strike meets the conditions in subsection (4) of this section; and (B)"

On page 2, after line 31, insert the following:

"(4)(a) Except for when an individual is exempt from the disqualification under subsection (2) of this section, an individual who is unemployed due to a labor strike remains disqualified for benefits under this title unless:

(i) The separating employer has been found by the national labor relations board, the public employment relations commission, or a court of competent jurisdiction to have failed to bargain in good faith or to have engaged in unlawful activity during the course of collective bargaining, including an unfair labor practice under the national labor relations act, as it existed on the effective date of this section, or under other applicable state or federal labor laws; and

(ii) The strike is directly caused by the separating employer's violation of the applicable state or federal labor laws.

(b) The department shall reevaluate a disqualification under this subsection if the national labor relations board, the public employment relations commission, or court of competent jurisdiction issues a ruling or order finding that the employer failed to bargain in good faith or engaged in unlawful conduct.

(5) The department may adopt rules for purposes of implementing this section, including but not limited to procedures for reviewing determinations, ensuring compliance with federal and state labor law, and coordinating with federal or state labor authorities."

Representatives Abell, Schmidt, Dufault and Orcutt spoke in favor of the adoption of the amendment.

Representative Fosse spoke against the adoption of the amendment.

Amendment (1136) was not adopted.

Representative Reeves moved the adoption of amendment (1088):

On page 2, line 28, after "than" strike "12" and insert "four"

On page 2, line 31, after "the" strike "12" and insert "four"

Representatives Reeves and Corry spoke in favor of the adoption of the amendment.

Representative Ortiz-Self spoke against the adoption of the amendment.

Amendment (1088) was adopted.

Representative Reeves moved the adoption of amendment (1089):

On page 2, after line 31, insert the following:

"(4) If benefits are issued as a result of strike under this section, the department shall notify the separating employer of the mediation services available through the public employment relations commission."

On page 9, after line 29, insert the following:

NEW SECTION. Sec. 7. A new section is added to chapter 49.08 RCW to read as follows:

(1) Where referral to publicly-supported dispute resolution services through the federal mediation and conciliation service or other applicable federal agency is impracticable or where those services are unavailable due to federal staffing or funding reductions, the public employment relations commission may charge private sector employers and labor organizations a fee for covering the costs of services provided under this chapter.

(2) Fees collected under this section must be deposited into the private sector labor dispute resolution account under section 8 of this act.

NEW SECTION. Sec. 8. A new section is added to chapter 49.08 RCW to read as follows:

The private sector labor dispute resolution account is created in the custody of the state treasurer. All fees collected under section 7 of this act must be deposited into the account. The executive director of the public employment relations commission may authorize expenditures from the account solely for the administration, staffing, and other related expenses of private sector labor dispute resolution services under this chapter. The account is subject to allotment procedures under chapter 43.88 RCW, but an appropriation is not required for expenditures.

NEW SECTION. Sec. 9. RCW 49.08.060 (Tender on exhaustion of available funds) and 1903 c 58 s 6 are each repealed."

Renumber the remaining sections consecutively and correct any internal references accordingly.

On page 9, line 30, after "7." strike "This act takes" and insert "Sections 1 through 6 of this act take"

Representative Reeves spoke in favor of the adoption of the amendment.

Representative Schmidt spoke against the adoption of the amendment.

Division was demanded and the demand was sustained. The Speaker (Representative Shavers presiding) divided the House. The result was 52 - YEAS; 36 - NAYS.

Amendment (1089) was adopted.

Representative Manjarrez moved the adoption of amendment (1128):

On page 2, after line 31, insert the following:

"(c) For any individual who is unemployed due to a strike at the separating employer's factory, establishment, or other premises at which the individual is or was last employed, the department is prohibited from waiving, exempting, or otherwise removing the standard eligibility requirements for benefits, including that the individual is ready, able, and willing to accept suitable work and actively seeking suitable work under RCW 50.20.010(1)(c)."

Representatives Manjarrez and Jacobsen spoke in favor of the adoption of the amendment.

Representative Ortiz-Self spoke against the adoption of the amendment.

Amendment (1128) was not adopted.

Representative Couture moved the adoption of amendment (1135):

On page 4, line 22, after "(x);" strike "~~((x))~~" and insert "or"

On page 4, beginning on line 28, after "emergency" strike all material through "employed" on line 31

On page 8, after line 21, insert the following:

"(6) If an individual's unemployment is due to a strike at the separating employer's factory, establishment, or other premises at which the individual is or was last employed, the benefit payments may not be paid from the unemployment compensation fund, may not be charged to the experience rating account of any employer, may not be factored into the social cost factor for the total taxable payroll for purposes of RCW 50.29.025, and may not be charged to any reimbursable employer. The benefit payments must be paid from an appropriation from the state general fund."

Representatives Couture, Dufault, Orcutt and Couture (again) spoke in favor of the adoption of the amendment.

Representative Berg spoke against the adoption of the amendment.

Amendment (1135) was not adopted.

Representative Walsh moved the adoption of amendment (1141):

On page 4, line 22, after "(x);" strike "~~((x))~~" and insert "or"

On page 4, beginning on line 28, after "emergency" strike all material through "employed" on line 31

On page 8, after line 21, insert the following:

"(6) If an individual's unemployment is due to a strike at the separating employer's factory, establishment, or other premises at which the individual is or was last employed, the benefit payments may not be paid from the unemployment compensation fund, may not be charged to the experience rating account of any employer, may not be factored into the social cost factor for the total taxable payroll for purposes of RCW 50.29.025, and may not be charged to any reimbursable employer. The benefit payments must be paid in accordance with section 6 of this act.

NEW SECTION. Sec. 4. A new section is added to chapter 50.16 RCW to read as follows:

The striking worker benefit account is created in the custody of the state treasurer. Funds in the account must consist of all contributions collected under section 5 of this act, appropriations and transfers by the legislature, and all other funding directed for deposit into the account. Expenditures from the account may be used only for providing benefits under section 6 of this act. Only the commissioner or the commissioner's designee may authorize expenditures from the account. The account is subject to allotment procedures under chapter 43.88 RCW, but an appropriation is not required for expenditures.

NEW SECTION. Sec. 5. A new section is added to chapter 50.24 RCW to read as follows:

The department shall adopt rules establishing requirements for collecting contributions from employees who are members of collective bargaining units to be deposited into the fund under section 4 of this act for the purposes of paying benefits under section 6 of this act through December 31, 2035. The department shall establish a rate for contributions based on an estimate of the benefits projected to be paid to striking workers under section 6 of this act. The rate must be based on a percentage of monthly dues paid to bargaining unit representatives.

NEW SECTION. Sec. 6. A new section is added to chapter 50.20 RCW to read as follows:

If an individual's unemployment is due to a strike at the separating employer's factory, establishment, or other premises at which the individual is or was last employed, those benefit payments must be paid from the account under section 4 of this act. Benefits are subject to the availability of funds."

Renumber the remaining sections consecutively and correct any internal references accordingly.

Representatives Walsh, Jacobsen, Walsh (again) and Manjarrez spoke in favor of the adoption of the amendment.

Representative Berry spoke against the adoption of the amendment.

Amendment (1141) was not adopted.

Representative Connors moved the adoption of amendment (1133):

On page 4, line 31, after "employed" insert ", except where an overpayment assessment is issued as provided under subsection (2)(j) of this section"

On page 6, after line 11, insert the following:

"(j) Benefits for which the department is required to issue an overpayment assessment under section 4 of this act may not be charged to the experience rating account of any contribution paying employer."

On page 8, line 27, after "receives" insert "back pay or other"

On page 8, line 31, after "(2)" insert "For purposes of this section, "back pay or other retroactive wages" includes wages intended to compensate the individual for any week for which the individual received benefits during the strike. It also includes a flat rate bonus provided by the separating employer as a condition of ratifying the applicable labor agreement or otherwise ending the strike, provided that the contract designates the flat rate bonus as partially or wholly compensating the individual for lost wages incurred for a specified time period during the strike. In the case of a flat rate bonus, the department shall issue an overpayment assessment to recover the benefits as provided under RCW 50.20.190, which must be an amount equal to the flat rate bonus, or all the benefits provided during the period of the strike, whichever is less.

(3)"

With the consent of the House, Representative Connors withdrew amendment (1133).

Representative Berg moved the adoption of amendment (1143):

On page 8, after line 21, insert the following:

"Sec. 4. RCW 50.29.026 and 2024 c 52 s 1 are each amended to read as follows:

(1) A qualified employer's contribution rate or array calculation factor rate determined under RCW 50.29.025 may be modified as follows:

(a) Subject to the limitations of this subsection, an employer may make a voluntary contribution of an amount equal to part or all of the benefits charged to the employer's account during the two years most recently ended on June 30th that were used for the purpose of computing the employer's contribution rate or array calculation factor rate. On receiving timely payment of a voluntary contribution, the commissioner shall cancel the benefits equal to the amount of the voluntary contribution and compute a new benefit ratio for the employer. The employer shall then be assigned the contribution rate or array calculation factor rate applicable for rate years beginning on or after January 1, 2005,

applicable to the rate class within which the recomputed benefit ratio is included. The minimum amount of a voluntary contribution must be an amount that will result in a recomputed benefit ratio that is in a rate class at least two rate classes lower than the rate class that included the employer's original benefit ratio.

(b) Payment of a voluntary contribution is considered timely if received by the department during the period beginning on the date of mailing to the employer the notice of contribution rate required under this title for the rate year for which the employer is seeking a modification of the employer's rate and ending on March 31st of that rate year.

(c) A benefit ratio may not be recomputed nor a rate be reduced under this section as a result of a voluntary contribution received after the payment period prescribed in (b) of this subsection.

(2) This section does not apply to any employer who has not had an increase of at least eight rate classes from the previous tax rate year.

(3) If a contribution paying employer is charged benefits due to a strike under section 3 of this act, the department may:

(a) Evaluate whether the employer is eligible to make a voluntary contribution under this section; and

(b) Provide notice to eligible employers of the department's determination of the employer's eligibility to make a voluntary contribution."

Renumber the remaining sections consecutively and correct any internal references accordingly.

On page 9, line 31, after "through" strike "3" and insert "4"

Representatives Berg, Schmidt, Ortiz-Self and Jacobsen spoke in favor of the adoption of the amendment.

Amendment (1143) was adopted.

Representative Ybarra moved the adoption of amendment (1140):

On page 9, line 6, after "31," strike "2025" and insert "2030"

On page 9, after line 29, insert the following:

"NEW SECTION. Sec. 7. (1) The office of the superintendent of public instruction, in consultation with the employment security department, must study the potential risks to students if schools were shut down due to school district teachers going on strike or being locked out for the maximum amount of weeks of allowed unemployment insurance compensation under this act. The study must include an analysis of, at a minimum:

(a) The potential for learning loss facing all students;

(b) Potential disparate impacts faced by minority students and students of color;

(c) The impact on enrollment of students transferring out of the public school system during the school shutdown or shutdowns; and

(d) Impacts that may be exacerbated by previous school shutdowns that occurred during the recent pandemic.

(2) The office of the superintendent of public instruction shall report its findings to the appropriate committees of the legislature by December 31, 2027.

(3) This section expires July 1, 2028."

Renumber the remaining sections consecutively and correct any internal references accordingly.

On page 9, line 30, after "7." strike "This act takes effect January 1, 2026" and insert "Sections 1 through 6 of this act take effect January 1, 2030"

Representatives Ybarra, Keaton and Walsh spoke in favor of the adoption of the amendment.

Representative Berry spoke against the adoption of the amendment.

Amendment (1140) was not adopted.

Representative Corry moved the adoption of amendment (1130):

On page 9, line 30, after "7." strike "This act takes effect January 1, 2026" and insert "(1) This act takes effect on the later of: January 1, 2026; or the date upon which written certification is received from the employment security department under this section.

(2) The employment security department shall submit written certification to the chief clerk of the house of representatives, the secretary of the senate, and the office of the code reviser, if the commissioner determines that the balance of the unemployment insurance trust fund account is projected to cover at least 24 months of benefits"

Representative Corry spoke in favor of the adoption of the amendment.

Representative Donaghy spoke against the adoption of the amendment.

Amendment (1130) was not adopted.

Representative Corry moved the adoption of amendment (1132):

On page 9, line 30, after "7." strike "This act takes effect January 1, 2026" and insert "(1) This act takes effect on the later of: January 1, 2026; or 90 days following the date upon which written certification is received from the office of financial management under this section.

(2) The office of financial management shall submit written certification to the chief clerk of the house of representatives, the secretary of the senate, and the office of the code reviser, when the state has established and fully funded a dedicated reserve fund for covering the costs for reimbursable benefits or the increase in payroll taxes attributable to unemployment insurance benefits paid to public employees

while participating in labor strikes, which must be made available to all public employers. For purposes of this subsection, "public employer" includes: (a) The state; (b) any department, supervisor, commissioner, agency, and institution of the state; (c) any city, county, town, municipal corporation, or other political subdivision; (d) any school district or other special purpose district; and (e) any other unit of local government"

Representatives Corry, Corry (again) and Walsh spoke in favor of the adoption of the amendment.

Representative Berry spoke against the adoption of the amendment.

Amendment (1132) was not adopted.

There being no objection, the rules were suspended, the second reading considered the third and the bill, as amended by the House, was placed on final passage.

Representatives Doglio, Scott and Fosse spoke in favor of the passage of the bill.

Representatives Dufault, Corry, Walsh, Waters, Ybarra and Schmidt spoke against the passage of the bill.

The Speaker (Representative Shavers presiding) stated the question before the House to be the final passage of Engrossed Substitute Senate Bill No. 5041, as amended by the House.

ROLL CALL

The Clerk called the roll on the final passage of Engrossed Substitute Senate Bill No. 5041, as amended by the House, and the bill passed the House by the following vote: Yeas, 52; Nays, 43; Absent, 0; Excused, 3

Voting Yea: Representatives Berg, Bergquist, Berry, Bronoske, Callan, Cortes, Davis, Doglio, Donaghy, Duerr, Farivar, Fey, Fitzgibbon, Fosse, Goodman, Gregerson, Hackney, Hill, Hunt, Kloba, Leavitt, Lekanoff, Macri, Mena, Morgan, Nance, Obras, Ormsby, Ortiz-Self, Parshley, Paul, Peterson, Pollet, Ramel, Reeves, Rule, Ryu, Salahuddin, Santos, Scott, Shavers, Simmons, Stearns, Stonier, Street, Taylor, Thai, Thomas, Timmons, Wylie, Zahn and Mme. Speaker

Voting Nay: Representatives Abbarno, Abell, Barkis, Barnard, Bernbaum, Burnett, Caldier, Chase, Connors, Corry, Couture, Dent, Dufault, Dye, Engell, Entenman, Graham, Griffey, Jacobsen, Keaton, Klicker, Ley, Low, Manjarrez, Marshall, McClintock, Orcutt, Penner, Reed, Richards, Rude, Schmick, Schmidt, Springer, Steele, Stokesbary, Stuebe, Tharinger, Volz, Walen, Walsh, Waters and Ybarra

Excused: Representatives Eslick, McEntire and Mendoza

ENGROSSED SUBSTITUTE SENATE BILL NO. 5041, as amended by the House, having received the necessary constitutional majority, was declared passed.

There being no objection, the House adjourned until 9:00 a.m., Monday, April 14, 2025, the 92nd Day of the 2025 Regular Session.

LAURIE JINKINS, Speaker

BERNARD DEAN, Chief Clerk

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5138	Second Reading	1
	Amendment Offered	1
	Third Reading Final Passage	2
5253-S	Second Reading	3
	Third Reading Final Passage	3
5471	Second Reading	2
	Third Reading Final Passage	3
5632	Second Reading	2
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