S-1220.1			
0 1440.1			

SENATE BILL 5809

State of Washington 61st Legislature 2009 Regular Session

By Senator Hargrove

Read first time 02/03/09. Referred to Committee on Labor, Commerce & Consumer Protection.

- AN ACT Relating to workforce employment and training; amending RCW 50.24.014 and 50.29.025; creating new sections; and providing an
- 3 expiration date.
- 4 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF WASHINGTON:
- 5 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** The legislature finds that the economy of the state depends on a well-trained workforce and a strong employment 6 7 system. A well-trained workforce generates the productivity employers need to compete in the global economy and to pay workers good wages. 8 9 The legislature further finds that too many Washington workers are unemployed and that the increasing pace of economic change makes it 10 imperative that unemployed workers become lifelong learners. The state 11 12 should provide unemployed workers a variety of effective services, including timely payment of unemployment benefits, job and career 13 14 counseling, job referral services, and training. Therefore, the 15 legislature finds it necessary and in the public interest to create an 16 employment and training trust fund to provide state funding for employment and training services. 17

p. 1 SB 5809

NEW SECTION. Sec. 2. (1) An individual may be eligible for applicable employment security benefits while participating in workforce training. Eligibility is at the discretion of the commissioner of employment security after submitting a commissioner-approved training waiver and developing a detailed individualized training plan.

- (2) Benefits paid under this section may not be charged to the experience rating accounts of individual employers.
- 9 (3) The commissioner shall adopt rules as necessary to implement this section.
- NEW SECTION. Sec. 3. Aerospace workers unemployed as a result of downsizing and restructuring of the aerospace industry will be deemed to be dislocated workers for the purpose of commissioner approval of training under RCW 50.20.043.
- NEW SECTION. Sec. 4. (1) The employment security department shall disburse the amounts appropriated by the legislature for the purposes of this act to the state board for community and technical colleges. These funds shall be allocated for training programs and related support services, including financial aid, in the community and technical college system that:
 - (a) Are consistent with workforce training priorities and based upon the comprehensive plan for workforce training developed by the workforce training and education coordinating board. The state board for community and technical colleges shall develop a plan for the use and evaluation of these funds, which is to be approved by the workforce training and education coordinating board for consistency with their workforce priorities. In developing and approving the plan, information shall be gathered from small businesses, with particular emphasis on businesses with fifteen or fewer employees. Further, the state board for community and technical colleges shall report to the workforce training and education coordinating board and the legislature by January 1, 2010, on the progress and results of the training and support services provided to eligible participants;
 - (b) Provide increased enrollments for individuals who have been terminated or have received a notice of termination from employment, and who are eligible for or have exhausted their entitlement to

unemployment compensation benefits within the previous twenty-four months, with first priority given to individuals who are unlikely to return to employment in the individual's principal occupation or previous industry because of a diminishing demand for their skills in that occupation or industry; and

- (c) Provide increased enrollments and support services, including financial aid, that do not replace or supplant any existing enrollments, programs, support services, or funding sources. For fiscal year 2010, the state board for community and technical colleges may borrow from the general fund to initiate the programs authorized under this act. However, the board shall repay the borrowed amount by the end of the fiscal biennium from funds appropriated to it from the administrative contingency fund.
- (2) For the purposes of this act, training provided by the community and technical colleges shall consist only of basic skills and literacy, occupational skills, vocational education, and related or supplemental instruction for apprentices who are enrolled in a registered, state-approved apprenticeship program. Community and technical colleges may contract with skill centers to provide training. Upon the request of an eligible recipient, a community or technical college may contract with a private technical school for specialized vocational training. Available tuition for the training is limited to the amount that would otherwise be obtained per enrolled quarter to a public institution of higher education and funding is only available to students who seek training in a course of study not available at a public institution of higher education within an eligible recipient's congressional district.
- **Sec. 5.** RCW 50.24.014 and 2007 c 327 s 2 are each amended to read 29 as follows:
 - (1)(a) A separate and identifiable account to provide for the financing of special programs to assist the unemployed is established in the administrative contingency fund. All money in this account shall be expended solely for the purposes of this title and for no other purposes whatsoever. Contributions to this account shall accrue and become payable by each employer, except employers as described in RCW 50.44.010 and 50.44.030 who have properly elected to make payments in lieu of contributions, taxable local government employers as

p. 3 SB 5809

described in RCW 50.44.035, and those employers who are required to make payments in lieu of contributions, at a basic rate of two one-hundredths of one percent. The amount of wages subject to tax shall be determined under RCW 50.24.010.

1 2

3

4

24

25

2627

28

2930

31

32

33

3435

36

37

- (b) A separate and identifiable account is established in the 5 6 administrative contingency fund for financing the employment security department's administrative cost under RCW 50.22.150 and the costs 7 8 under RCW 50.22.150(10). All money in this account shall be expended 9 solely for the purposes of this title and for no other purposes 10 whatsoever. Contributions to this account shall accrue and become 11 payable by each employer, except employers as described in RCW 12 50.44.010 and 50.44.030 who have properly elected to make payments in 13 lieu of contributions, taxable local government employers as described 14 in RCW 50.44.035, those employers who are required to make payments in of contributions, those employers described under 15 50.29.025(1)(f)(ii), and those qualified employers assigned rate class 16 20 or rate class 40, as applicable, under RCW 50.29.025, at a basic 17 rate of one one-hundredth of one percent. The amount of wages subject 18 19 to tax shall be determined under RCW 50.24.010. Any amount of contributions payable under this subsection (1)(b) that exceeds the 20 21 amount that would have been collected at a rate of four one-thousandths 22 of one percent must be deposited in the account created in (a) of this 23 subsection.
 - (c) For rate year 2009, a surcharge on contributions payable under this section shall be charged sufficient to increase revenue by two hundred million dollars.
 - (2)(a) Contributions under this section shall become due and be paid by each employer under rules as the commissioner may prescribe, and shall not be deducted, in whole or in part, from the remuneration of individuals in the employ of the employer. Any deduction in violation of this section is unlawful.
 - (b) In the payment of any contributions under this section, a fractional part of a cent shall be disregarded unless it amounts to one-half cent or more, in which case it shall be increased to one cent.
 - (3) If the commissioner determines that federal funding has been increased to provide financing for the services specified in chapter 50.62 RCW, the commissioner shall direct that collection of

- 1 contributions under this section be terminated on the following January 2 1st.
 - Sec. 6. RCW 50.29.025 and 2007 c 51 s 1 are each amended to read as follows:
 - (1) Except as provided in subsection (2) of this section, the contribution rate for each employer subject to contributions under RCW 50.24.010 shall be determined under this subsection.
 - (a) A fund balance ratio shall be determined by dividing the balance in the unemployment compensation fund as of the September 30th immediately preceding the rate year by the total remuneration paid by all employers subject to contributions during the second calendar year preceding the rate year and reported to the department by the following March 31st. The division shall be carried to the fourth decimal place with the remaining fraction, if any, disregarded. The fund balance ratio shall be expressed as a percentage.
 - (b) The interval of the fund balance ratio, expressed as a percentage, shall determine which tax schedule in (e) of this subsection shall be in effect for assigning tax rates for the rate year. The intervals for determining the effective tax schedule shall be:

21	Interval of the	
22	Fund Balance Ratio	Effective
23	Expressed as a Percentage	Tax Schedule
24	2.90 and above	AA
25	2.10 to 2.89	A
26	1.70 to 2.09	В
27	1.40 to 1.69	C
28	1.00 to 1.39	D
29	0.70 to 0.99	E
30	Less than 0.70	F

(c) An array shall be prepared, listing all qualified employers in ascending order of their benefit ratios. The array shall show for each qualified employer: (i) Identification number; (ii) benefit ratio; (iii) taxable payrolls for the four calendar quarters immediately preceding the computation date and reported to the department by the

p. 5 SB 5809

cut-off date; (iv) a cumulative total of taxable payrolls consisting of the employer's taxable payroll plus the taxable payrolls of all other employers preceding him or her in the array; and (v) the percentage equivalent of the cumulative total of taxable payrolls.

- (d) Each employer in the array shall be assigned to one of twenty rate classes according to the percentage intervals of cumulative taxable payrolls set forth in (e) of this subsection: PROVIDED, That if an employer's taxable payroll falls within two or more rate classes, the employer and any other employer with the same benefit ratio shall be assigned to the lowest rate class which includes any portion of the employer's taxable payroll.
- (e) Except as provided in RCW 50.29.026, the contribution rate for each employer in the array shall be the rate specified in the following tables for the rate class to which he or she has been assigned, as determined under (d) of this subsection, within the tax schedule which is to be in effect during the rate year:

17										
18	Pero	cent of								
19	Cum	ulative			Schedu	iles of C	ontrib	utions	Rates	
20	Taxabl	e Payrol	ls		for	Effectiv	e Tax	Sched	ıle	
21			Rate							
22	From	То	Class	AA	A	В	C	D	E	F
23	0.00	5.00	1	0.47	0.47	0.57	0.97	1.47	1.87	2.47
24	5.01	10.00	2	0.47	0.47	0.77	1.17	1.67	2.07	2.67
25	10.01	15.00	3	0.57	0.57	0.97	1.37	1.77	2.27	2.87
26	15.01	20.00	4	0.57	0.73	1.11	1.51	1.90	2.40	2.98
27	20.01	25.00	5	0.72	0.92	1.30	1.70	2.09	2.59	3.08
28	25.01	30.00	6	0.91	1.11	1.49	1.89	2.29	2.69	3.18
29	30.01	35.00	7	1.00	1.29	1.69	2.08	2.48	2.88	3.27
30	35.01	40.00	8	1.19	1.48	1.88	2.27	2.67	3.07	3.47
31	40.01	45.00	9	1.37	1.67	2.07	2.47	2.87	3.27	3.66
32	45.01	50.00	10	1.56	1.86	2.26	2.66	3.06	3.46	3.86
33	50.01	55.00	11	1.84	2.14	2.45	2.85	3.25	3.66	3.95
34	55.01	60.00	12	2.03	2.33	2.64	3.04	3.44	3.85	4.15
35	60.01	65.00	13	2.22	2.52	2.83	3.23	3.64	4.04	4.34
36	65.01	70.00	14	2.40	2.71	3.02	3.43	3.83	4.24	4.54
37	70.01	75.00	15	2.68	2.90	3.21	3.62	4.02	4.43	4.63
38	75.01	80.00	16	2.87	3.09	3.42	3.81	4.22	4.53	4.73
39	80.01	85.00	17	3.27	3.47	3.77	4.17	4.57	4.87	4.97

- (f) The contribution rate for each employer not qualified to be in the array shall be as follows:
- (i) Employers who do not meet the definition of "qualified employer" by reason of failure to pay contributions when due shall be assigned a contribution rate two-tenths higher than that in rate class 20 for the applicable rate year, except employers who have an approved agency-deferred payment contract by September 30 of the previous rate year. If any employer with an approved agency-deferred payment contract fails to make any one of the succeeding deferred payments or fails to submit any succeeding tax report and payment in a timely manner, the employer's tax rate shall immediately revert to a contribution rate two-tenths higher than that in rate class 20 for the applicable rate year; and
- (ii) For all other employers not qualified to be in the array, the contribution rate shall be a rate equal to the average industry rate as determined by the commissioner; however, the rate may not be less than one percent.
- (2) Beginning with contributions assessed for rate year 2005, the contribution rate for each employer subject to contributions under RCW 50.24.010 shall be the sum of the array calculation factor rate and the graduated social cost factor rate determined under this subsection, and the solvency surcharge determined under RCW 50.29.041, if any.
- (a) The array calculation factor rate shall be determined as follows:
- (i) An array shall be prepared, listing all qualified employers in ascending order of their benefit ratios. The array shall show for each qualified employer: (A) Identification number; (B) benefit ratio; and (C) taxable payrolls for the four consecutive calendar quarters immediately preceding the computation date and reported to the employment security department by the cut-off date.
- (ii) Each employer in the array shall be assigned to one of forty rate classes according to his or her benefit ratio as follows, and, except as provided in RCW 50.29.026, the array calculation factor rate for each employer in the array shall be the rate specified in the rate class to which the employer has been assigned:

p. 7 SB 5809

1	Bene	efit Ratio	Rate	Rate
2	At least	Less than	Class	(percent)
3		0.000001	1	0.00
4	0.000001	0.001250	2	0.13
5	0.001250	0.002500	3	0.25
6	0.002500	0.003750	4	0.38
7	0.003750	0.005000	5	0.50
8	0.005000	0.006250	6	0.63
9	0.006250	0.007500	7	0.75
10	0.007500	0.008750	8	0.88
11	0.008750	0.010000	9	1.00
12	0.010000	0.011250	10	1.15
13	0.011250	0.012500	11	1.30
14	0.012500	0.013750	12	1.45
15	0.013750	0.015000	13	1.60
16	0.015000	0.016250	14	1.75
17	0.016250	0.017500	15	1.90
18	0.017500	0.018750	16	2.05
19	0.018750	0.020000	17	2.20
20	0.020000	0.021250	18	2.35
21	0.021250	0.022500	19	2.50
22	0.022500	0.023750	20	2.65
23	0.023750	0.025000	21	2.80
24	0.025000	0.026250	22	2.95
25	0.026250	0.027500	23	3.10
26	0.027500	0.028750	24	3.25
27	0.028750	0.030000	25	3.40
28	0.030000	0.031250	26	3.55
29	0.031250	0.032500	27	3.70
30	0.032500	0.033750	28	3.85
31	0.033750	0.035000	29	4.00
32	0.035000	0.036250	30	4.15
33	0.036250	0.037500	31	4.30
34	0.037500	0.040000	32	4.45
35	0.040000	0.042500	33	4.60
36	0.042500	0.045000	34	4.75

1	0.045000	0.047500	35	4.90
2	0.047500	0.050000	36	5.05
3	0.050000	0.052500	37	5.20
4	0.052500	0.055000	38	5.30
5	0.055000	0.057500	39	5.35
6	0.057500		40	5.40

- (b) The graduated social cost factor rate shall be determined as follows:
- (i)(A) Except as provided in (b)(i)(B) and (C) of this subsection, the commissioner shall calculate the flat social cost factor for a rate year by dividing the total social cost by the total taxable payroll. The division shall be carried to the second decimal place with the remaining fraction disregarded unless it amounts to five hundredths or more, in which case the second decimal place shall be rounded to the next higher digit. The flat social cost factor shall be expressed as a percentage.
- (B) If, on the cut-off date, the balance in the unemployment compensation fund is determined by the commissioner to be an amount that will provide more than ten months of unemployment benefits, the commissioner shall calculate the flat social cost factor for the rate year immediately following the cut-off date by reducing the total social cost by the dollar amount that represents the number of months for which the balance in the unemployment compensation fund on the cut-off date will provide benefits above ten months and dividing the result by the total taxable payroll. However, the calculation under this subsection (2)(b)(i)(B) for a rate year may not result in a flat social cost factor that is more than four-tenths lower than the calculation under (b)(i)(A) of this subsection for that rate year.

For the purposes of this subsection, the commissioner shall determine the number of months of unemployment benefits in the unemployment compensation fund using the benefit cost rate for the average of the three highest calendar benefit cost rates in the twenty consecutive completed calendar years immediately preceding the cut-off date or a period of consecutive calendar years immediately preceding the cut-off date that includes three recessions, if longer.

(C) Except as provided in (b)(i)(D) of this subsection, the minimum flat social cost factor calculated under this subsection (2)(b) shall

p. 9 SB 5809

be six-tenths of one percent, except that if the balance in the
unemployment compensation fund is determined by the commissioner to be
an amount that will provide:

- (I) At least twelve months but less than fourteen months of unemployment benefits, the minimum shall be five-tenths of one percent; or
- (II) At least fourteen months of unemployment benefits, the minimum shall be five-tenths of one percent, except that, for employers in rate class 1, the minimum shall be forty-five hundredths of one percent.
- 10 <u>(D) The flat social cost factor for employers in all rate classes</u>
 11 <u>for rate year 2009 shall be sixteen one-hundredths of one percent.</u>
 - (ii)(A) Except as provided in (b)(ii)(B) of this subsection, the graduated social cost factor rate for each employer in the array is the flat social cost factor multiplied by the percentage specified as follows for the rate class to which the employer has been assigned in (a)(ii) of this subsection, except that the sum of an employer's array calculation factor rate and the graduated social cost factor rate may not exceed six and five-tenths percent or, for employers whose North American industry classification system code is within "111," "112," "1141," "115," "3114," "3117," "42448," or "49312," may not exceed six percent through rate year 2007 and may not exceed five and seven-tenths percent for rate year 2008 and thereafter:
- 23 (I) Rate class 1 78 percent;

4

5

7

8

9

12

13

14

15

16 17

18 19

2021

22

25

- 24 (II) Rate class 2 82 percent;
 - (III) Rate class 3 86 percent;
- 26 (IV) Rate class 4 90 percent;
- 27 (V) Rate class 5 94 percent;
- 28 (VI) Rate class 6 98 percent;
- 29 (VII) Rate class 7 102 percent;
- 30 (VIII) Rate class 8 106 percent;
- 31 (IX) Rate class 9 110 percent;
- 32 (X) Rate class 10 114 percent;
- 33 (XI) Rate class 11 118 percent; and
- 34 (XII) Rate classes 12 through 40 120 percent.
- 35 (B) For contributions assessed beginning July 1, 2005, through 36 December 31, 2007, for employers whose North American industry 37 classification system code is "111," "112," "1141," "115," "3114,"

1 "3117," "42448," or "49312," the graduated social cost factor rate is zero.

(iii) For the purposes of this section:

- (A) "Total social cost" means the amount calculated by subtracting the array calculation factor contributions paid by all employers with respect to the four consecutive calendar quarters immediately preceding the computation date and paid to the employment security department by the cut-off date from the total unemployment benefits paid to claimants in the same four consecutive calendar quarters. To calculate the flat social cost factor for rate year 2005, the commissioner shall calculate the total social cost using the array calculation factor contributions that would have been required to be paid by all employers in the calculation period if (a) of this subsection had been in effect for the relevant period.
 - (B) "Total taxable payroll" means the total amount of wages subject to tax, as determined under RCW 50.24.010, for all employers in the four consecutive calendar quarters immediately preceding the computation date and reported to the employment security department by the cut-off date.
 - (c) For employers who do not meet the definition of "qualified employer" by reason of failure to pay contributions when due:
 - (i) The array calculation factor rate shall be two-tenths higher than that in rate class 40, except employers who have an approved agency-deferred payment contract by September 30th of the previous rate year. If any employer with an approved agency-deferred payment contract fails to make any one of the succeeding deferred payments or fails to submit any succeeding tax report and payment in a timely manner, the employer's tax rate shall immediately revert to an array calculation factor rate two-tenths higher than that in rate class 40; and
 - (ii) The social cost factor rate shall be the social cost factor rate assigned to rate class 40 under (b)(ii) of this subsection.
 - (d) For all other employers not qualified to be in the array:
 - (i) For rate years 2005, 2006, and 2007:
 - (A) The array calculation factor rate shall be a rate equal to the average industry array calculation factor rate as determined by the commissioner, plus fifteen percent of that amount; however, the rate

p. 11 SB 5809

may not be less than one percent or more than the array calculation factor rate in rate class 40; and

- (B) The social cost factor rate shall be a rate equal to the average industry social cost factor rate as determined by the commissioner, plus fifteen percent of that amount, but not more than the social cost factor rate assigned to rate class 40 under (b)(ii) of this subsection.
 - (ii) Beginning with contributions assessed for rate year 2008:
- (A) The array calculation factor rate shall be a rate equal to the average industry array calculation factor rate as determined by the commissioner, multiplied by the history factor, but not less than one percent or more than the array calculation factor rate in rate class 40;
- (B) The social cost factor rate shall be a rate equal to the average industry social cost factor rate as determined by the commissioner, multiplied by the history factor, but not more than the social cost factor rate assigned to rate class 40 under (b)(ii) of this subsection; and
- (C) The history factor shall be based on the total amounts of benefits charged and contributions paid in the three fiscal years ending prior to the computation date by employers not qualified to be in the array, other than employers in (c) of this subsection, who were first subject to contributions in the calendar year ending three years prior to the computation date. The commissioner shall calculate the history ratio by dividing the total amount of benefits charged by the total amount of contributions paid in this three-year period by these employers. The division shall be carried to the second decimal place with the remaining fraction disregarded unless it amounts to five one-hundredths or more, in which case the second decimal place shall be rounded to the next higher digit. The commissioner shall determine the history factor according to the history ratio as follows:

32		History		History
33		Ratio		Factor
34				(percent)
35		At least	Less than	
36	(I)		.95	90

1	(II)	.95	1.05	100
2	(III)	1.05		115

- (3) Assignment of employers by the commissioner to industrial classification, for purposes of this section, shall be in accordance with established classification practices found in the "Standard Industrial Classification Manual" issued by the federal office of management and budget to the third digit provided in the standard industrial classification code, or in the North American industry classification system code.
- NEW SECTION. Sec. 7. (1) The employment security department shall report to the appropriate committees of the legislature by December 1, 2010, on the status of the programs provided in this act and the resulting outcomes. The department shall include, in its report, quantitative and demographics information on the increase in job orders, placement referrals, individualized training plans, skill assessments, and other interventions achieved. The department shall also include in its report the number of repeat clients as a percentage of all clients served by programs provided in this act.
- (2) The state board for community and technical colleges shall report to the appropriate committees of the legislature by December 1, 2010, the number of certified full-time equivalent students receiving training as provided in this act. In addition, the report shall include information on the outcomes of the provided training. The report shall also include indices of placement rates, student demographics, training plan completion rates, and comparisons of preprogram and postprogram wage levels.
- (3) Each community and technical college shall confer and consult with its respective labor-management advisory board concerning the college's efforts to provide training and services rendered under this act and meet the completion and placement goals of the workforce training and education coordinating board. Each community and technical college shall ensure the participation on its labor-management advisory board of small businesses, with particular emphasis on businesses with fifteen or fewer employees.
- (4) The workforce training and education coordinating board shall conduct a study in consultation with the higher education coordinating

p. 13 SB 5809

- 1 board on the feasibility of: (a) Redirecting all state and federal job
- 2 training and retraining funds distributed in the state into a separate
- 3 job training trust fund; and (b) distributing the funds according to
- 4 uniform criteria. The workforce training and education coordinating
- 5 board shall report to the appropriate committees of the legislature on
- 6 the results of the study by December 1, 2010.
- 7 <u>NEW SECTION.</u> **Sec. 8.** If any part of this act is found to be in
- 8 conflict with federal requirements that are a prescribed condition to
- 9 the allocation of federal funds to the state, the conflicting part of
- 10 this act is inoperative solely to the extent of the conflict and with
- 11 respect to the agencies directly affected, and this finding does not
- 12 affect the operation of the remainder of this act in its application to
- 13 the agencies concerned. Rules adopted under this act must meet federal
- 14 requirements that are a necessary condition to the receipt of federal
- 15 funds by the state.
- 16 <u>NEW SECTION.</u> **Sec. 9.** If any provision of this act or its
- 17 application to any person or circumstance is held invalid, the
- 18 remainder of the act or the application of the provision to other
- 19 persons or circumstances is not affected.
- 20 <u>NEW SECTION.</u> **Sec. 10.** This act applies to tax rate years
- 21 beginning with tax rate year 2009.
- 22 NEW SECTION. Sec. 11. This act expires June 30, 2011.

--- END ---