
SENATE BILL 5870

State of Washington

62nd Legislature

2011 Regular Session

By Senators Zarelli, Tom, Baumgartner, Swecker, Stevens, Ericksen, Morton, Honeyford, Parlette, and King

Read first time 03/09/11. Referred to Committee on Ways & Means.

1 AN ACT Relating to rejecting the request for funds necessary to
2 implement state collective bargaining agreements for the 2011-2013
3 fiscal biennium; creating new sections; and declaring an emergency.

4 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF WASHINGTON:

5 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** The legislature finds and declares that, as
6 a result of the significant fiscal crisis facing the state, the highest
7 priority for the allocation of the state's limited fiscal resources is
8 providing for the education of our children, preserving critical safety
9 net programs for the most vulnerable, and protecting our valuable
10 natural resources.

11 Further, the legislature finds the collective bargaining agreements
12 negotiated by the governor for the 2011-2013 fiscal biennium are
13 neither financially feasible for the state nor do they give the
14 legislature the necessary flexibility to properly prioritize competing
15 needs within the budget.

16 Specifically, the legislature finds the following provisions
17 contrary to the needs of citizens that depend upon vital state programs
18 and taxpayers that expect lawmakers to best prioritize existing funds:

1 (1) Employee health care premiums, which limit employees to paying
2 fifteen percent of the premium share, a percentage well below the
3 private sector average;

4 (2) Step salary increases, which provide thousands of employees up
5 to five percent annual raises over the course of the next biennium;

6 (3) Limitations on health benefit designs, which restrict
7 innovations in health care delivery and attempts to bend the cost
8 curve;

9 (4) Temporary salary reductions, which do not carry forward savings
10 into future biennia; and

11 (5) Sick leave cash out, which costs the state budget millions of
12 dollars at a time when those funds could be put to more urgent uses.

13 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** Pursuant to RCW 41.80.010, the legislature,
14 by this act, hereby rejects the governor's request for funds necessary
15 to implement the compensation and fringe benefit provisions of all
16 collective bargaining agreements under chapter 41.80 RCW agreed to by
17 the governor prior to March 1, 2011, for the 2011-2013 fiscal biennium.

18 The parties to the collective bargaining agreements are encouraged
19 to reconvene to reach an agreement that takes into account the
20 legislature's concerns and better recognizes the state's fiscal
21 situation.

22 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 3.** This act is necessary for the immediate
23 preservation of the public peace, health, or safety, or support of the
24 state government and its existing public institutions, and takes effect
25 immediately.

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