

JOB CREATION BILLS THAT PASSED THE SENATE

Workers' Compensation Reform

- SB 5127 (Sen. Holmquist Newbry) would expand eligibility for structured settlement agreements to workers age 40 and older and would also correct a misinterpretation by the Board of Industrial Insurance Appeals (*Zimmerman*) that has slowed the approval of settlement agreements.
 - *Passed the Senate – referred to House Labor and Workforce Development*
- SB 5128 (Sen. Holmquist Newbry) would replace the structured settlement agreement program with a new, more flexible voluntary settlement agreement program. (44 other states offer voluntary settlements).
 - *Passed the Senate – referred to House Labor and Workforce Development*
- SB 5112 (Sen. Holmquist Newbry) would create more efficiency in claims handling by allowing retrospective ratings programs the limited ability to schedule appointments for two independent medical exams and vocational rehabilitation assessments. (Schedule from list of L&I approved doctors).
 - *Passed the Senate – referred to House Labor and Workforce Development*

Leave Programs: Reducing Government Mandates

- SB 5726 (Sen. Braun) would prohibit a local jurisdiction from requiring an employer to provide paid sick or safe leave to employees unless the employer is physically located within the jurisdiction and only applies to an employee who works at a physical location of the employer within the jurisdiction for at least 85 percent of the hours worked for that employer in the current calendar year. (Remedies the ordinance passed by Seattle in 2011 that applies to businesses that are based in Seattle, as well as those that are based outside Seattle but have employees who perform work in Seattle.)
 - *Passed the Senate – referred to House Labor & Workforce Development*

Regulatory Reform

- SB 5680 (Sen. Brown) would create a single portal for business licensing and would direct the agencies to provide links to their particular permits, licenses and inspections on a single web portal so that a small business would be able to easily and completely comply with and obtain those licenses, permits, and inspections required for their particular business.
 - *Passed the Senate – referred to House Technology and Economic Development*
- SB 5718 (Sen. Brown) would improve customer service to businesses by monitoring the business licensing portal. Designates one specific official (OCIO) to develop a plan and oversee implementation of a single portal for businesses to access the inspections, licenses and permits required by all state agencies.
 - *Passed the Senate – referred to House Technology and Economic Development*
- SB 5158 (Sen. Braun) would provide a good faith defense for wage and hour complaints. Employers should be able to rely on formal written guidance given by L&I and not be subject to litigation if the information is inaccurate.

- *Passed the Senate – referred to House Labor & Workforce Development*
- ESSB 5656 (Sen. Braun) would revise business licensing systems. All cities that impose a business and occupation tax must have their general business licenses issued and renewed, either through the state's Business Licensing System or a city managed system by July 1, 2016. Cities that do not impose a business and occupation tax must have their general business licenses issued and renewed, if renewal is applicable, through the state's business licensing system or city managed system by January 1, 2019.
 - *Passed the Senate – referred to House Local Government*
- SB 5688 (Sen. Braun) would commission a study to determine the impact of reducing the number of B&O-tax classifications to have one set of rules for employers.
 - *Passed the Senate – referred to House Finance*
- SB 5378 (Sen. Benton) would limit substantial amendments to building codes to more than every six years.
 - *Passed the Senate – referred to House Local Government*
- SB 5697 (Sen. Braun) would reduce the frequency of local sales and use tax changes. Currently local sales and use tax changes may be implemented four times per year: on the first days of January, April, July, and October. This bill allows such changes just twice annually, on the first day of January or July.
 - *Passed the Senate – referred to House Finance*

Rulemaking

- SB 5679 (Sen. Brown) would improve the business climate and stimulate job creation by requiring certain agencies to establish a formal review process of existing rules. Departments of Ecology, Health, and Labor & Industries must each annually perform a formal review process of existing rules with the goal of improving the processes for licensing, permitting, and inspection in a manner that reduces the regulatory burden on businesses without compromising public health and safety.
 - *Passed the Senate – referred to House Gov't Operations & Elections*
- SB 5641 (Sen. Bailey) would require an agency order adopting an administrative rule to be signed by the governor if the rule qualifies as a significant legislative rule of an agency whose head or governing body is appointed by the governor.
 - *Passed the Senate – referred to House Gov't Accountability & Oversight*

Capital Budget & MTCA

- SB 5445 (Sen. Honeyford) would authorize a grant to fund capital projects at schools.
 - *Passed the Senate – referred to House Capital Budget*
- SB 5296 (Sen. Ericksen) - Creates accountability for the use of Model Toxic Control Act funds; speeds up environmental cleanup through streamlining process; and creates private sector jobs and economic opportunities.
 - *In Senate Ways & Means*

Prevailing Wage Reforms

- SSB 5684 (Sen. King) would clarify that prevailing wage requirements do not apply to workers who deliver and unload standard materials, supplies, or equipment to a staging or stockpiling area without installing, fabricating, incorporating, or consuming the materials or supplies on the job site, or using the equipment to perform work on the public work site.
 - *Passed the Senate – referred to House Labor & Workforce Development*
- SB 5107 (Sen. Padden) would conform state law with federal law for multi-use buildings. When constructing a building that is commercial on the first floor and low income housing on the top 3 floors, federal law designates you pay commercial prevailing wage on the commercial floor and residential prevailing wage on the remaining floors.
 - *Passed the Senate – referred to House Labor & Workforce Development*
- SB 5686 (Sen. King) would require L&I to provide surveys to contractors renewing their registration or license. Prevents contractors from bidding on public works project unless the surveys are submitted.
 - *Passed the Senate – referred to House Labor & Workforce Development*

General Job Creators

- SB 5056 (Sen. Honeyford) would allow a person to apply for a work permit for the employment of minors without completing a new master application under certain circumstances.
 - *Passed the Senate – referred to House Labor & Workforce Development*
- SB 5355 (Sen. Holmquist Newbry) would implement three UI “integrity initiatives” were signed into federal law in Oct 2012. Each requires a change to WA state law in order to remain in federal conformity:
 - First – Assessing a 15% penalty for people who commit UI fraud;
 - Second – Prohibiting benefit charging relief if employers establish a “pattern” of failing to respond to agency requests for information when that failure results in an improper benefit payment.
 - Third – Rules governing reporting of new hires and rehires were put into conformity in 2012 via HB 2393.
- SB 5616 (Sen. Sheldon) would allow farmers to operate farm equipment on roads and highways.
 - *Passed the Senate – referred to House Transportation*
- SB 5709 (Sen. Smith) would create a pilot program to demonstrate the feasibility of using densified wood pellets to heat public schools, adding local manufacturing jobs.
 - *Passed the Senate – referred to House Environment*
- SB 5691 (Sen. Hewitt) would establish and maintain the Walla Walla Veterans' Home as a branch of the state soldiers' home, and any veterans, veterans' spouses, or parents of children who died while serving in the armed forces may apply for admission.
 - *Passed the Senate – referred to House Community Development, Housing & Tribal Affairs*