
HOUSE BILL 1653

State of Washington 52nd Legislature 1991 Regular Session

By Representatives Pruitt, Peery and Dellwo.

Read first time February 5, 1991. Referred to Committee on Commerce & Labor.

1 AN ACT Relating to partners in education; and adding a new chapter
2 to Title 49 RCW.

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

4 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** The legislature finds that the children
5 in this state are the state's most valuable resource and that the
6 assistance of every citizen in this state is required to help children
7 receive the education that will help children become responsible
8 citizens. A significant part of providing that assistance is
9 encouraging parents and other members of the community to work together
10 with the school staff to achieve excellent schools. The legislature
11 finds that this investment of time will contribute to the growth,
12 vitality, and greater productivity of every citizen of this state.

1 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** Unless the context clearly requires
2 otherwise, the definitions in this section apply throughout this
3 chapter.

4 (1) "Department" means the department of labor and industries.

5 (2) "Employee" means a person other than an independent contractor
6 employed by an employer on a continuous basis for the previous fifty-
7 two weeks for at least thirty-five hours per week.

8 (3) "Employer" means:

9 (a) A person, firm, corporation, partnership, business trust, legal
10 representative, or other business entity that engages in any business,
11 industry, profession, or activity in this state and includes any unit
12 of local government including, but not limited to, a county, city,
13 town, municipal corporation, quasi-municipal corporation, or political
14 subdivision, that:

15 (i) Employs a daily average of twenty-five or more employees during
16 the last calendar quarter at the place where the employee requesting
17 leave reports for work; or

18 (ii) Employed a daily average of five or more employees during the
19 last calendar quarter within a twenty-mile radius of the place where
20 the employee reports for work, where the employer maintains a central
21 hiring location and customarily transfers employees among workplaces;
22 and

23 (b) The state, state institutions, and state agencies.

24 (4) "Public schools" means the common schools of the state of
25 Washington as defined under RCW 28A.150.010 and 28A.150.020.

26 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 3.** (1) An employee is entitled to sixty
27 hours of school service release time per year with not more than eight
28 hours in any one week to perform the following duties:

1 (a) Serving as the chief elected official of a parent and teacher
2 organization of a public school;

3 (b) Serving as a member of a school site-based council or other
4 type of school committee where a process is established for selecting
5 members including parents, other community representatives, teachers,
6 classified school employees, and administrative school employees; or

7 (c) Serving as a member of the school district board of directors
8 or the state board of education.

9 (2) The employer may require the employee to submit a letter from
10 the school principal or school district superintendent stating that the
11 employee holds one of the positions under subsection (1) of this
12 section.

13 (3) The employer shall not reduce an employee's salary, accumulated
14 vacation or sick leave, or other benefits if the employee is granted
15 release time under this section.

16 (4) An employer may limit or deny school service release time to
17 either:

18 (a) Up to ten percent of the employer's work force in the state
19 designated as key personnel by the employer. Any designation made
20 under this section shall take effect thirty days after it is issued and
21 may be changed no more than once in any twelve-month period. An
22 employer shall not designate key personnel on the basis of age or
23 gender or for the purpose of evading the requirements of this chapter.
24 An employee shall not be designated as key personnel after requesting
25 release time under this section. The designation as key personnel
26 shall be in writing and posted in a conspicuous place at the work site;
27 or

28 (b) If the employer does not designate key personnel, the highest
29 paid ten percent of the employer's employees in the state.

1 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 4.** Sections 1 through 3 of this act shall
2 constitute a new chapter in Title 49 RCW.