
ENGROSSED SUBSTITUTE HOUSE BILL 1653

State of Washington

52nd Legislature

1991 Regular Session

By House Committee on Commerce & Labor (originally sponsored by Representatives Pruitt, Peery and Dellwo).

Read first time March 6, 1991.

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

7 (2) "Employer" means:

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

14 (i) Employed a daily average of one hundred or more employees
15 during the last calendar quarter at the place where the employee
16 requesting leave reports for work; or

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

11 (3) The leave required by this section may be unpaid. If an
12 employer provides paid school service leave for fewer than sixty hours,
13 the additional hours of leave added to attain the sixty-hour total may
14 be unpaid.

15 (4) The taking of leave under this chapter shall not result in the
16 loss of any benefit, including seniority or pension rights, accrued
17 before the date on which the leave commenced.

18 (5) An employer may limit or deny school service leave to either:

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

29 (b) If the employer does not designate key personnel, the highest
30 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.