
SUBSTITUTE HOUSE BILL 2333

State of Washington

59th Legislature

2006 Regular Session

By House Committee on Appropriations (originally sponsored by Representatives Green, Haler, Conway, Curtis, Fromhold, McDonald, Walsh, Strow, Sells, Campbell, Miloscia, Roach, P. Sullivan, Morrell, McDermott, Serben, Darneille, Appleton, Williams, Chase, Moeller, Hasegawa, Rodne, Linville, Santos, Springer, Wallace, Kenney, Cody, Ericksen, O'Brien, Wood, B. Sullivan, Simpson, Ericks, Ormsby and McCune)

READ FIRST TIME 02/07/06.

1 AN ACT Relating to parity for home care agency workers; adding a
2 new section to chapter 74.39A RCW; creating a new section; providing an
3 effective date; and providing an expiration date.

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

5 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** A new section is added to chapter 74.39A RCW
6 to read as follows:

7 (1) The department shall create a formula that converts the cost of
8 the increase in wages and benefits negotiated and funded in the
9 contract for individual providers of home care services pursuant to RCW
10 74.39A.270 and 74.39A.300, into a per-hour amount, excluding those
11 benefits defined in subsection (2) of this section. That per-hour
12 amount shall be added to the statewide home care agency vendor rate and
13 shall be used exclusively for improving the wages and benefits of home
14 care agency workers who provide direct care. The formula shall account
15 for:

16 (a) All types of wages, benefits, and compensation negotiated and
17 funded each biennium, including but not limited to:

18 (i) Regular wages;

19 (ii) Benefit pay, such as vacation, sick, and holiday pay;

1 (iii) Taxes on wages/benefit pay; and

2 (iv) Mileage; and

3 (b) The increase in the average cost of worker's compensation for
4 home care agencies and application of the increases identified in (a)
5 of this subsection to all hours required to be paid, including travel
6 time, of direct service workers under the wage and hour laws and
7 associated employer taxes.

8 (2) The contribution rate for health care benefits, including but
9 not limited to medical, dental, and vision benefits, for eligible
10 agency home care workers shall be paid by the department to home care
11 agencies at the same rate as negotiated and funded in the collective
12 bargaining agreement for individual providers of home care services.

13 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** For the fiscal year ending June 30, 2007,
14 the per-hour amount added to the home care agency vendor rate pursuant
15 to section 1(1)(a) of this act shall be limited to the cost of: (1) A
16 \$0.02 per-hour increase in wages, plus the employer share of
17 unemployment and social security taxes on the amount of the increase;
18 and (2) the cost of annual leave benefits negotiated and funded for
19 individual providers of home care services. This section expires June
20 30, 2007.

21 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 3.** This act takes effect July 1, 2006.

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