
SENATE BILL 5137

State of Washington 60th Legislature 2007 Regular Session

By Senators Kohl-Welles and Keiser; by request of Governor Gregoire

Read first time 01/11/2007. Referred to Committee on Labor,
Commerce, Research & Development.

1 AN ACT Relating to revising the industry average unemployment
2 contribution rates; amending RCW 50.29.025; and creating new sections.

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

4 **Sec. 1.** RCW 50.29.025 and 2006 c 13 s 4 are each amended to read
5 as follows:

6 (1) Except as provided in subsection (2) of this section, the
7 contribution rate for each employer subject to contributions under RCW
8 50.24.010 shall be determined under this subsection.

9 (a) A fund balance ratio shall be determined by dividing the
10 balance in the unemployment compensation fund as of the September 30th
11 immediately preceding the rate year by the total remuneration paid by
12 all employers subject to contributions during the second calendar year
13 preceding the rate year and reported to the department by the following
14 March 31st. The division shall be carried to the fourth decimal place
15 with the remaining fraction, if any, disregarded. The fund balance
16 ratio shall be expressed as a percentage.

17 (b) The interval of the fund balance ratio, expressed as a
18 percentage, shall determine which tax schedule in (e) of this

1 subsection shall be in effect for assigning tax rates for the rate
2 year. The intervals for determining the effective tax schedule shall
3 be:

4	Interval of the	
5	Fund Balance Ratio	Effective
6	Expressed as a Percentage	Tax Schedule
7	2.90 and above	AA
8	2.10 to 2.89	A
9	1.70 to 2.09	B
10	1.40 to 1.69	C
11	1.00 to 1.39	D
12	0.70 to 0.99	E
13	Less than 0.70	F

14 (c) An array shall be prepared, listing all qualified employers in
15 ascending order of their benefit ratios. The array shall show for each
16 qualified employer: (i) Identification number; (ii) benefit ratio;
17 (iii) taxable payrolls for the four calendar quarters immediately
18 preceding the computation date and reported to the department by the
19 cut-off date; (iv) a cumulative total of taxable payrolls consisting of
20 the employer's taxable payroll plus the taxable payrolls of all other
21 employers preceding him or her in the array; and (v) the percentage
22 equivalent of the cumulative total of taxable payrolls.

23 (d) Each employer in the array shall be assigned to one of twenty
24 rate classes according to the percentage intervals of cumulative
25 taxable payrolls set forth in (e) of this subsection: PROVIDED, That
26 if an employer's taxable payroll falls within two or more rate classes,
27 the employer and any other employer with the same benefit ratio shall
28 be assigned to the lowest rate class which includes any portion of the
29 employer's taxable payroll.

30 (e) Except as provided in RCW 50.29.026, the contribution rate for
31 each employer in the array shall be the rate specified in the following
32 tables for the rate class to which he or she has been assigned, as
33 determined under (d) of this subsection, within the tax schedule which
34 is to be in effect during the rate year:

		Percent of Cumulative Schedules of Contributions Rates Taxable Payrolls for Effective Tax Schedule									
		Rate									
From	To Class	AA	A	B	C	D	E	F			
0.00	5.00	1	0.47	0.47	0.57	0.97	1.47	1.87	2.47		
5.01	10.00	2	0.47	0.47	0.77	1.17	1.67	2.07	2.67		
10.01	15.00	3	0.57	0.57	0.97	1.37	1.77	2.27	2.87		
15.01	20.00	4	0.57	0.73	1.11	1.51	1.90	2.40	2.98		
20.01	25.00	5	0.72	0.92	1.30	1.70	2.09	2.59	3.08		
25.01	30.00	6	0.91	1.11	1.49	1.89	2.29	2.69	3.18		
30.01	35.00	7	1.00	1.29	1.69	2.08	2.48	2.88	3.27		
35.01	40.00	8	1.19	1.48	1.88	2.27	2.67	3.07	3.47		
40.01	45.00	9	1.37	1.67	2.07	2.47	2.87	3.27	3.66		
45.01	50.00	10	1.56	1.86	2.26	2.66	3.06	3.46	3.86		
50.01	55.00	11	1.84	2.14	2.45	2.85	3.25	3.66	3.95		
55.01	60.00	12	2.03	2.33	2.64	3.04	3.44	3.85	4.15		
60.01	65.00	13	2.22	2.52	2.83	3.23	3.64	4.04	4.34		
65.01	70.00	14	2.40	2.71	3.02	3.43	3.83	4.24	4.54		
70.01	75.00	15	2.68	2.90	3.21	3.62	4.02	4.43	4.63		
75.01	80.00	16	2.87	3.09	3.42	3.81	4.22	4.53	4.73		
80.01	85.00	17	3.27	3.47	3.77	4.17	4.57	4.87	4.97		
85.01	90.00	18	3.67	3.87	4.17	4.57	4.87	4.97	5.17		
90.01	95.00	19	4.07	4.27	4.57	4.97	5.07	5.17	5.37		
95.01	100.00	20	5.40	5.40	5.40	5.40	5.40	5.40	5.40		

27 (f) The contribution rate for each employer not qualified to be in
 28 the array shall be as follows:

29 (i) Employers who do not meet the definition of "qualified
 30 employer" by reason of failure to pay contributions when due shall be
 31 assigned a contribution rate two-tenths higher than that in rate class
 32 20 for the applicable rate year, except employers who have an approved
 33 agency-deferred payment contract by September 30 of the previous rate
 34 year. If any employer with an approved agency-deferred payment
 35 contract fails to make any one of the succeeding deferred payments or
 36 fails to submit any succeeding tax report and payment in a timely
 37 manner, the employer's tax rate shall immediately revert to a
 38 contribution rate two-tenths higher than that in rate class 20 for the
 39 applicable rate year; and

1 (ii) For all other employers not qualified to be in the array, the
2 contribution rate shall be a rate equal to the average industry rate as
3 determined by the commissioner; however, the rate may not be less than
4 one percent.

5 (2) Beginning with contributions assessed for rate year 2005, the
6 contribution rate for each employer subject to contributions under RCW
7 50.24.010 shall be the sum of the array calculation factor rate and the
8 graduated social cost factor rate determined under this subsection, and
9 the solvency surcharge determined under RCW 50.29.041, if any.

10 (a) The array calculation factor rate shall be determined as
11 follows:

12 (i) An array shall be prepared, listing all qualified employers in
13 ascending order of their benefit ratios. The array shall show for each
14 qualified employer: (A) Identification number; (B) benefit ratio; and
15 (C) taxable payrolls for the four consecutive calendar quarters
16 immediately preceding the computation date and reported to the
17 employment security department by the cut-off date.

18 (ii) Each employer in the array shall be assigned to one of forty
19 rate classes according to his or her benefit ratio as follows, and,
20 except as provided in RCW 50.29.026, the array calculation factor rate
21 for each employer in the array shall be the rate specified in the rate
22 class to which the employer has been assigned:

Benefit Ratio		Rate	Rate
At least	Less than	Class	(percent)
	0.000001	1	0.00
0.000001	0.001250	2	0.13
0.001250	0.002500	3	0.25
0.002500	0.003750	4	0.38
0.003750	0.005000	5	0.50
0.005000	0.006250	6	0.63
0.006250	0.007500	7	0.75
0.007500	0.008750	8	0.88
0.008750	0.010000	9	1.00
0.010000	0.011250	10	1.15
0.011250	0.012500	11	1.30
0.012500	0.013750	12	1.45

1	0.013750	0.015000	13	1.60
2	0.015000	0.016250	14	1.75
3	0.016250	0.017500	15	1.90
4	0.017500	0.018750	16	2.05
5	0.018750	0.020000	17	2.20
6	0.020000	0.021250	18	2.35
7	0.021250	0.022500	19	2.50
8	0.022500	0.023750	20	2.65
9	0.023750	0.025000	21	2.80
10	0.025000	0.026250	22	2.95
11	0.026250	0.027500	23	3.10
12	0.027500	0.028750	24	3.25
13	0.028750	0.030000	25	3.40
14	0.030000	0.031250	26	3.55
15	0.031250	0.032500	27	3.70
16	0.032500	0.033750	28	3.85
17	0.033750	0.035000	29	4.00
18	0.035000	0.036250	30	4.15
19	0.036250	0.037500	31	4.30
20	0.037500	0.040000	32	4.45
21	0.040000	0.042500	33	4.60
22	0.042500	0.045000	34	4.75
23	0.045000	0.047500	35	4.90
24	0.047500	0.050000	36	5.05
25	0.050000	0.052500	37	5.20
26	0.052500	0.055000	38	5.30
27	0.055000	0.057500	39	5.35
28	0.057500		40	5.40

29 (b) The graduated social cost factor rate shall be determined as
30 follows:

31 (i)(A) Except as provided in (b)(i)(B) and (C) of this subsection,
32 the commissioner shall calculate the flat social cost factor for a rate
33 year by dividing the total social cost by the total taxable payroll.
34 The division shall be carried to the second decimal place with the
35 remaining fraction disregarded unless it amounts to five hundredths or
36 more, in which case the second decimal place shall be rounded to the
37 next higher digit. The flat social cost factor shall be expressed as
38 a percentage.

1 (B) If, on the cut-off date, the balance in the unemployment
2 compensation fund is determined by the commissioner to be an amount
3 that will provide more than ten months of unemployment benefits, the
4 commissioner shall calculate the flat social cost factor for the rate
5 year immediately following the cut-off date by reducing the total
6 social cost by the dollar amount that represents the number of months
7 for which the balance in the unemployment compensation fund on the cut-
8 off date will provide benefits above ten months and dividing the result
9 by the total taxable payroll. However, the calculation under this
10 subsection (2)(b)(i)(B) for a rate year may not result in a flat social
11 cost factor that is more than four-tenths lower than the calculation
12 under (b)(i)(A) of this subsection for that rate year.

13 For the purposes of this subsection, the commissioner shall
14 determine the number of months of unemployment benefits in the
15 unemployment compensation fund using the benefit cost rate for the
16 average of the three highest calendar benefit cost rates in the twenty
17 consecutive completed calendar years immediately preceding the cut-off
18 date or a period of consecutive calendar years immediately preceding
19 the cut-off date that includes three recessions, if longer.

20 (C) The minimum flat social cost factor calculated under this
21 subsection (2)(b) shall be six-tenths of one percent, except that if
22 the balance in the unemployment compensation fund is determined by the
23 commissioner to be an amount that will provide:

24 (I) At least twelve months but less than fourteen months of
25 unemployment benefits, the minimum shall be five-tenths of one percent;
26 or

27 (II) At least fourteen months of unemployment benefits, the minimum
28 shall be five-tenths of one percent, except that, for employers in rate
29 class 1, the minimum shall be forty-five hundredths of one percent.

30 (ii)(A) Except as provided in (b)(ii)(B) of this subsection, the
31 graduated social cost factor rate for each employer in the array is the
32 flat social cost factor multiplied by the percentage specified as
33 follows for the rate class to which the employer has been assigned in
34 (a)(ii) of this subsection, except that the sum of an employer's array
35 calculation factor rate and the graduated social cost factor rate may
36 not exceed six and five-tenths percent or, for employers whose North
37 American industry classification system code is within "111," "112,"

1 "1141," "115," "3114," "3117," "42448," or "49312," may not exceed six
2 percent through rate year 2007 and may not exceed five and seven-tenths
3 percent for rate year 2008 and thereafter:

4 (I) Rate class 1 - 78 percent;

5 (II) Rate class 2 - 82 percent;

6 (III) Rate class 3 - 86 percent;

7 (IV) Rate class 4 - 90 percent;

8 (V) Rate class 5 - 94 percent;

9 (VI) Rate class 6 - 98 percent;

10 (VII) Rate class 7 - 102 percent;

11 (VIII) Rate class 8 - 106 percent;

12 (IX) Rate class 9 - 110 percent;

13 (X) Rate class 10 - 114 percent;

14 (XI) Rate class 11 - 118 percent; and

15 (XII) Rate classes 12 through 40 - 120 percent.

16 (B) For contributions assessed beginning July 1, 2005, through
17 December 31, 2007, for employers whose North American industry
18 classification system code is "111," "112," "1141," "115," "3114,"
19 "3117," "42448," or "49312," the graduated social cost factor rate is
20 zero.

21 (iii) For the purposes of this section:

22 (A) "Total social cost" means the amount calculated by subtracting
23 the array calculation factor contributions paid by all employers with
24 respect to the four consecutive calendar quarters immediately preceding
25 the computation date and paid to the employment security department by
26 the cut-off date from the total unemployment benefits paid to claimants
27 in the same four consecutive calendar quarters. To calculate the flat
28 social cost factor for rate year 2005, the commissioner shall calculate
29 the total social cost using the array calculation factor contributions
30 that would have been required to be paid by all employers in the
31 calculation period if (a) of this subsection had been in effect for the
32 relevant period.

33 (B) "Total taxable payroll" means the total amount of wages subject
34 to tax, as determined under RCW 50.24.010, for all employers in the
35 four consecutive calendar quarters immediately preceding the
36 computation date and reported to the employment security department by
37 the cut-off date.

1 (c) The array calculation factor rate for each employer not
2 qualified to be in the array shall be as follows:

3 (i) Employers who do not meet the definition of "qualified
4 employer" by reason of failure to pay contributions when due shall be
5 assigned an array calculation factor rate two-tenths higher than that
6 in rate class 40, except employers who have an approved agency-deferred
7 payment contract by September 30th of the previous rate year. If any
8 employer with an approved agency-deferred payment contract fails to
9 make any one of the succeeding deferred payments or fails to submit any
10 succeeding tax report and payment in a timely manner, the employer's
11 tax rate shall immediately revert to an array calculation factor rate
12 two-tenths higher than that in rate class 40; and

13 (ii) For all other employers not qualified to be in the array, the
14 array calculation factor rate shall be a rate equal to the average
15 industry array calculation factor rate as determined by the
16 commissioner(~~(, plus fifteen percent of that amount)~~); however, the
17 rate may not be less than one percent or more than the array
18 calculation factor rate in rate class 40.

19 (d) The graduated social cost factor rate for each employer not
20 qualified to be in the array shall be as follows:

21 (i) For employers whose array calculation factor rate is determined
22 under (c)(i) of this subsection, the social cost factor rate shall be
23 the social cost factor rate assigned to rate class 40 under (b)(ii) of
24 this subsection.

25 (ii) For employers whose array calculation factor rate is
26 determined under (c)(ii) of this subsection, the social cost factor
27 rate shall be a rate equal to the average industry social cost factor
28 rate as determined by the commissioner, (~~(plus fifteen percent of that
29 amount,~~) but not more than the social cost factor rate assigned to
30 rate class 40 under (b)(ii) of this subsection.

31 (3) Assignment of employers by the commissioner to industrial
32 classification, for purposes of this section, shall be in accordance
33 with established classification practices found in the "Standard
34 Industrial Classification Manual" issued by the federal office of
35 management and budget to the third digit provided in the standard
36 industrial classification code, or in the North American industry
37 classification system code.

1 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** If any part of this act is found to be in
2 conflict with federal requirements that are a prescribed condition to
3 the allocation of federal funds to the state or the eligibility of
4 employers in this state for federal unemployment tax credits, the
5 conflicting part of this act is inoperative solely to the extent of the
6 conflict, and the finding or determination does not affect the
7 operation of the remainder of this act. Rules adopted under this act
8 must meet federal requirements that are a necessary condition to the
9 receipt of federal funds by the state or the granting of federal
10 unemployment tax credits to employers in this state.

11 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 3.** If any provision of this act or its
12 application to any person or circumstance is held invalid, the
13 remainder of the act or the application of the provision to other
14 persons or circumstances is not affected.

15 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 4.** This act applies for rate years beginning on
16 or after January 1, 2008.

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