
Labor Committee

HB 1122

Brief Description: Addressing arbitration for dispatch operators of public employers.

Sponsors: Representatives Sells, Gregerson and Reykdal.

Brief Summary of Bill

- Extends interest arbitration under the Public Employee's Collective Bargaining Act to certain public employees who dispatch fire, police, or emergency services.

Hearing Date: 2/16/15

Staff: Trudes Tango (786-7384).

Background:

Employees of cities, counties, and other political subdivisions of the state bargain their wages and working conditions under the Public Employee's Collective Bargaining Act (PECBA). For certain uniformed personnel, the PECBA recognizes the public policy against strikes as a means of settling labor disputes. For those employees, the PECBA requires binding interest arbitration if negotiations for a contract reach impasse and cannot be resolved through mediation. Under interest arbitration, an impartial third party arbitrator makes decisions as to the terms of the contract.

"Uniformed personnel" include, among others: firefighters; employees of fire departments of public employers who dispatch exclusively either fire or emergency medical services, or both; law enforcement officers in larger cities and counties; general authority peace officers and firefighters employed by certain port districts; correctional employees who are employed in jails by counties with a population of 70,000 or more, and who are trained for and charged with responsibility for custody of inmates in the jail; security forces at a nuclear power plant; and publicly employed advanced life support technicians. Other public employees covered by interest arbitration include Washington State Patrol officers.

This analysis was prepared by non-partisan legislative staff for the use of legislative members in their deliberations. This analysis is not a part of the legislation nor does it constitute a statement of legislative intent.

Summary of Bill:

The interest arbitration provisions of the PECBA for uniformed personnel are extended to employees of public employers, other than fire departments, who dispatch fire, police, or emergency services.

Appropriation: None.

Fiscal Note: Requested on February 10, 2015.

Effective Date: The bill takes effect 90 days after adjournment of the session in which the bill is passed.