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**Labor Committee**

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**HB 2078**

**Brief Description:** Addressing collective bargaining by ferry employee organizations.

**Sponsors:** Representatives Sells, Appleton, Stanford, Kochmar, Ormsby and S. Hunt.

**Brief Summary of Bill**

- Provides that ferry employees and the state may negotiate four-year contracts for nonwage-related issues.

**Hearing Date:** 2/16/15

**Staff:** Joan Elgee (786-7106).

**Background:**

Representatives of ferry workers in the Marine Transportation Division of the Washington State Department of Transportation (WSDOT), who are members of a collective bargaining unit represented by a ferry employee organization, bargain with a representative of the Governor over wages, hours, working conditions, insurance, grievance procedures, and other matters mutually agreed upon. Negotiations begin about February 1 of every even-numbered year, and must be finally resolved by October 1 of each even-numbered year. The collective bargaining law states that it is the intent that agreements commence on July 1st of each odd-numbered year and terminate on June 30th of the next odd-numbered year to coincide with the biennial budget year, to the extent practical. After an agreement expires the terms and conditions remain in effective until the effective date of a subsequently negotiated agreement, but not to exceed one year.

**Summary of Bill:**

Any ferry employee organization and the representative of the Governor may negotiate four-year contracts for nonwage-related issues. Wage-related issues are subject to two-year negotiations. "Wage-related" means all items that affect or relate to, directly or indirectly, employee

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compensation, including for example wages, benefits, benefits accruals, holidays, vacation accruals, sick leave, and penalty pay.

**Appropriation:** None.

**Fiscal Note:** Requested on February 11, 2015.

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