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**SUBSTITUTE HOUSE BILL 1514**

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**State of Washington 66th Legislature 2019 Regular Session**

**By** House Labor & Workplace Standards (originally sponsored by Representatives Gregerson, Hansen, Stonier, Davis, and Tharinger)

AN ACT Relating to establishing wage liens; amending RCW 49.48.086; adding new sections to chapter 43.24 RCW; adding a new chapter to Title 60 RCW; and providing an effective date.

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

NEW SECTION. **Sec.**  This act may be known and cited as the Washington wage recovery act.

NEW SECTION. **Sec.**  The definitions in this section apply throughout this chapter unless the context clearly requires otherwise.

(1) "Department" means the department of labor and industries.

(2) "Director" means the director of labor and industries.

(3) "Employ" includes permit to work.

(4) "Employee" includes any individual currently or formerly employed by an employer.

(5) "Employer" includes any individual, partnership, association, corporation, business trust, or any person or group of persons acting directly or indirectly in the interest of an employer in relation to an employee.

(6) "Maintain" includes to maintain, clean, manage, improve, protect, repair, monitor, or restore real property at the instance of the owner or tenant or of any person acting by the owner's or tenant's authority.

(7) "Wage claim" means a claim for any unpaid wages owed to the claimant as an employee of an employer, as well as any other compensation, interest, statutory damages, liquidated damages, or statutory penalties that may be owed for violation of a state or federal wage law, including but not limited to chapters 39.12, 49.12, 49.46, 49.48, and 49.52 RCW, and the fair labor standards act, 29 U.S.C. Sec. 201 et seq.

NEW SECTION. **Sec.**  (1)(a) A person has a wage lien for wage claims on:

(i) Any property in the state of Washington that is owned or is subsequently acquired by the person's employer;

(ii) Any property in the state of Washington that is owned or is subsequently acquired by an officer, vice principal, or agent of the employer who is personally liable for a wage claim under RCW 49.52.070; and

(iii) Any real property in the state of Washington that the person has maintained, for all wage claims for maintenance of that property.

(b) A person does not have a wage lien under this chapter on any property that is or would be subject to a lien by that person under chapter 60.04 RCW.

(2) A wage lien is not effective against:

(a) With respect to goods as defined in RCW 62A.9A-102, a buyer in the ordinary course of business, as such term is defined in RCW 62A.1-201(b)(9); or

(b) Third persons who, prior to the filing of the wage lien notice required under this chapter, acquired title in good faith, for value and without actual notice of the wage lien, to property other than goods.

(3) Chapter 62A.9A RCW of the uniform commercial code does not apply to a wage lien on personal property under this chapter.

(4) A person, other than a consumer as defined in RCW 62A.1-201, who controls or possesses amounts payable to the employer that are not health-care-insurance receivables as defined in chapter 62A.9A RCW, and that are properly encumbered by a wage lien upon an account receivable, is not obligated to pay a lien claimant amounts to which the wage lien has attached until that person receives written notice of such lien, nor is the person liable to the lien claimant for any amounts paid out prior to receipt of notice of the wage lien. The notice required must state that the amount due or to become due has been assigned by operation of this chapter and that payment is to be made to the lien claimant, and it must contain the information described in section 4 of this act. After receipt of the notice, the person responsible for payment of such amounts may discharge its obligation by paying the lien claimant and may not discharge the obligation by paying the employer. If requested by the person responsible for payment of such amounts, the lien claimant must, within a reasonable time, furnish reasonable proof that the wage lien continues to exist, and unless such proof is furnished, that person has no obligation to pay the lien claimant and may discharge its obligation by paying the employer. A written, signed statement from the employee that the wages that form the basis for the wage lien have not been paid in the time after filing the wage lien constitutes "reasonable proof" for this purpose. Failure to furnish any notice as provided in this section does not affect the status of the wage lien established under this chapter in regard to the relationship with other creditors.

(5) This chapter does not affect the ownership or title in personal or real property of the state or other public entity or public ownership, nor does any lien attach to the fee simple title of the state or other public ownership.

NEW SECTION. **Sec.**  (1) To establish a wage lien on real property, the lien claimant must:

(a) File for recording a notice of claim of wage lien in the county where the property is located that includes:

(i) The name, telephone number, and address of the lien claimant and, if the wage lien has been assigned, the name of the person who assigned the lien;

(ii) The name of the employer;

(iii) The street address, legal description, or other description reasonably calculated to identify, for a person familiar with the area, the location of the real property to be charged with the wage lien;

(iv) The amount for which the wage lien is claimed;

(v) The signature of the lien claimant or of a person authorized to act on his or her behalf; and

(vi) An acknowledgment and certification as set forth in subsection (4) of this section;

(b) Pay a filing fee established by the county auditor; and

(c) Mail a copy of the notice filed under this subsection (1) to the employer's registered agent, the employer's registered business address, or the address where the employer resides, and to the property owner if the employer is not the property owner, by certified mail with return receipt requested.

(2) To establish a wage lien on personal property, other than a vehicle or vessel, the lien claimant must:

(a) File for recording a notice of claim of wage lien with the department of licensing that includes:

(i) The name, telephone number, and address of the lien claimant and, if the wage lien has been assigned, the name of the person who assigned the lien;

(ii) The name of the employer;

(iii) A description of the personal property subject to the wage lien or a statement that the wage lien covers all personal property;

(iv) The principal amount for which the wage lien is claimed;

(v) The signature of the lien claimant or of a person authorized to act on his or her behalf; and

(vi) An acknowledgment and certification as set forth in subsection (4) of this section;

(b) Pay a filing fee established by the department of licensing. All receipts from fees collected under this subsection shall be deposited into the department of licensing wage lien account created under section 14 of this act. Moneys in the fund may be spent only after appropriation and may be used only to administer the wage lien filings in this subsection; and

(c) Mail a copy of the notice filed under this subsection (2) to the employer's registered agent, the employer's registered business address, or the address where the employer resides, by certified mail with return receipt requested.

(3) To establish a wage lien on a vehicle or vessel, the lien claimant must:

(a) File for recording a notice of claim of wage lien with the office of the auditor of the county in which the vessel or vehicle is kept that includes:

(i) The name, telephone number, and address of the lien claimant and, if the wage lien has been assigned, the name of the person who assigned the lien;

(ii) The name of the employer;

(iii) A description of the vehicle or vessel subject to the wage lien;

(iv) The principal amount for which the wage lien is claimed;

(v) The signature of the lien claimant or of a person authorized to act on his or her behalf; and

(vi) An acknowledgment and certification as set forth in subsection (4) of this section;

(b) Pay a filing fee established by the county auditor; and

(c) Mail a copy of the notice filed under subsection (2) of this section to the employer's registered agent, the employer's registered business address, or the address where the employer resides, by certified mail with return receipt requested.

(4) A notice of claim of wage lien, acknowledgment, and certificate that is substantially in the following form is sufficient to satisfy subsections (1)(a) and (3)(a) of this section:

CLAIM OF WAGE LIEN

. . . . ., claimant, vs. . . . . ., name of person indebted to claimant:

Notice is hereby given that the claimant named below asserts a wage lien pursuant to chapter 60.--- RCW (the new chapter created in section 15 of this act). In support of this wage lien the following information is submitted:

1. NAME OF LIEN CLAIMANT:

TELEPHONE NUMBER:

ADDRESS:

2. NAME OF EMPLOYER:

3. DESCRIPTION OF THE REAL PROPERTY OR PERSONAL PROPERTY AGAINST WHICH A WAGE LIEN IS CLAIMED (street address, legal description, or other information that will reasonably describe the property, or statement that the wage lien covers all personal property):

4. PRINCIPAL AMOUNT FOR WHICH THE WAGE LIEN IS CLAIMED IS:

5. IF THE CLAIMANT IS THE ASSIGNEE OF THIS CLAIM SO STATE HERE AND STATE THE NAME OF THE ASSIGNOR:

6. IF THE PERSON SIGNING THIS CLAIM OF WAGE LIEN IS NOT THE CLAIMANT, BUT IS AUTHORIZED TO ACT ON THE CLAIMANT'S BEHALF, STATE THE PERSON'S NAME AND REPRESENTATIVE CAPACITY:

NAME:

REPRESENTATIVE CAPACITY (e.g., officer or employee of claimant; attorney or agent; representative of lien filing service; administrator, representative, or agent of trustees of employee benefit plan):

ACKNOWLEDGMENT

FOR AN ACKNOWLEDGMENT IN AN INDIVIDUAL CAPACITY:

STATE OF WASHINGTON, COUNTY OF

. . . . . ., ss.

. . . . . ., being sworn, says: I, . . . . .(name of person). . . . ., am the claimant. I have read the foregoing claim of wage lien, believe the claim of wage lien to be true and correct under penalty of perjury, and believe the claim of wage lien is not frivolous, is made with reasonable cause, and is not clearly excessive. The foregoing claim of wage lien is my free and voluntary act for the uses and purposes stated therein.

. . . . . .Dated:

(Signature)

FOR AN ACKNOWLEDGMENT IN A REPRESENTATIVE CAPACITY:

STATE OF WASHINGTON, COUNTY OF

. . . . . ., ss.

. . . . . ., being sworn, says: I, . . .(name of person). . ., am authorized to act on behalf of the claimant. I have read the foregoing claim of wage lien, believe the claim of wage lien to be true and correct under penalty of perjury, and believe the claim of wage lien is not frivolous, is made with reasonable cause, and is not clearly excessive. The foregoing claim of wage lien is the free and voluntary act of the claimant for the uses and purposes stated therein.

. . . . . .Dated:

(Signature)

CERTIFICATE

FOR A CERTIFICATE OF ACKNOWLEDGMENT IN AN INDIVIDUAL CAPACITY:

I certify that I know or have satisfactory evidence that . . . (name of person) . . . is the person who appeared before me, and said person acknowledged that he/she signed this instrument and acknowledged it to be his/her free and voluntary act for the uses and purposes mentioned in the instrument.

. . . . . .Dated:

(Signature)

(Seal or stamp)

. . . . . . . Title

. . . . . . . My appointment

. . . . . . . Expires

FOR A CERTIFICATE OF ACKNOWLEDGMENT IN A REPRESENTATIVE CAPACITY:

I certify that I know or have satisfactory evidence that . . . (name of person) . . . is the person who appeared before me, and said person acknowledged that he/she signed this instrument, on oath stated that he/she was authorized to execute the instrument and acknowledged it as the . . . (type of authority, e.g., officer or employee, etc.) . . . of . . . (name of party on behalf of whom instrument was executed) . . . to be the free and voluntary act of such party for the uses and purposes mentioned in the instrument.

. . . . . .Dated:

(Signature)

(Seal or Stamp)

. . . . . . Title

. . . . . . My appointment

. . . . . . Expires

(4)(a) For a notice of claim of wage lien on real property filed under this section, the county auditor shall record the notice in the same manner as deeds and other instruments of title are recorded under chapter 65.08 RCW. Notices of claim of wage lien for registered land need not be recorded in the Torrens register.

(b) For a notice of claim of wage lien on personal property other than a vehicle or vessel filed under this section, the department of licensing shall record the notice. For a notice of claim of wage lien on a vehicle or vessel, the office of the auditor of the county where the vehicle or vessel is kept shall record the notice.

(5) The notice of claim of wage lien may be filed at any time prior to the expiration of the statute of limitations for an action to recover the wages that are the subject of the wage lien.

(6) Mistakes or errors in the claimed amount owed do not invalidate the wage lien unless made with the intent to defraud.

(7) A wage lien under this chapter continues in all identifiable proceeds of the property subject to the wage lien.

NEW SECTION. **Sec.**  Any wage lien or right of wage lien created by this chapter and the right of action to recover the wage lien is assignable so as to vest in the assignee all rights and remedies of the assignor, subject to all defenses thereto that might be made.

NEW SECTION. **Sec.**  (1) A wage lien may be judicially foreclosed by an action in:

(a) The superior court in the county in which the real property is located;

(b) The district court in the county in which the personal property is located if the value of the claim does not exceed the jurisdictional limit of the district court provided in RCW 3.66.020; or

(c) The superior court in the county in which the personal property is located if the value of the claim exceeds the jurisdictional limit of the district court provided in RCW 3.66.020.

(2) Except as provided in subsection (3) of this section, if the claimant has instituted an action in a court of this state for the wage claim that is the subject of the wage lien, that action shall be deemed an action to foreclose on any property subject to the lien. An action to foreclose the wage lien must be filed within one year of the date the wage lien was recorded.

(3)(a) If the claimant receives a judgment on a wage claim from a federal, state, or municipal court, the judgment establishes the amount owed for the purposes of foreclosure under this chapter.

(b) If the claimant receives a judgment on a wage claim from a federal, state, or municipal court, that does not have jurisdiction over the claimant's wage lien, the action to foreclose the wage lien must be filed within one year of the date of that court's judgment.

(4)(a) A wage lien may also be foreclosed by:

(i) The department using the department's collection procedures under RCW 49.48.086 when the claimant has pursued a wage claim in an administrative proceeding and a final and binding citation and notice of assessment has been issued; or

(ii) The claimant if a final and binding citation and notice of assessment has been issued by the department and the claimant has timely notified the department that the claimant will pursue foreclosure action on his or her own, without the department's assistance.

(b) The citation and notice of assessment issued by the department establishes the amount owed for the purpose of foreclosure under this chapter.

(5) A foreclosure action may be brought by the employee individually, the department, the United States department of labor, the office of the attorney general, or a representative of the employee, including a collective bargaining representative or class representative. Multiple wage claims against the same employer may be joined in a single proceeding, but the court may order separate trials or hearings.

(6) In the judgment resulting from an action to foreclose on the wage lien, the court may order the sale at sheriff's auction or the transfer to the lien claimant of title or possession of any property subject to the wage lien. Whether or not the court makes such an order as part of the judgment, a writ of sale may be issued for any property subject to the wage lien for ten years after a judgment for a wage claim is issued. A wage lien based on an underlying judgment continues in force for an additional ten-year period if the period of execution for the underlying judgment is extended under RCW 6.17.020.

(7) In an action to foreclose on a wage lien on a vehicle or vessel, the lien claimant must comply with the requirements of subsection (1) of this section and any other requirements of the department of licensing regarding transferring title and taking ownership of the vehicle or vessel.

(8) A lien claimant who prevails in a foreclosure action is entitled to costs and reasonable attorneys' fees.

NEW SECTION. **Sec.**  (1) A wage lien is extinguished:

(a) If an action for the underlying wage claim is not brought within one year of the date the wage lien was recorded;

(b) If the action for the underlying wage claim is dismissed with prejudice and no appeal is filed within the applicable appeals period. If an appeal is filed, the wage lien continues in force until final judgment is rendered; or

(c) Upon payment and acceptance of payment for the employee's wage claim.

(2)(a) When the wage lien has been extinguished, the lien claimant shall, within fifteen days, file a release of the wage lien at the place where the wage lien was recorded and pay a filing fee established by the agency where the notice is filed. If a lien claimant fails to file a release of the wage lien, upon demand and fifteen days' notice by the employer or any affected party, mailed to the lien claimant's address as indicated on the notice of the wage lien by certified mail with return receipt requested, the employer or affected party may petition the court for an order releasing the wage lien. If the lien claimant acted unreasonably and in bad faith in refusing to file a release of the wage lien, the employer or affected party shall be entitled to recover its attorneys' fees and costs incurred in the action, and the court in its discretion may also issue a fine not to exceed one thousand dollars.

(b) The release must include:

(i) the name, telephone number, address, and relationship to the wage lien of the person filing the notice;

(ii) The name, telephone number, and address of the lien claimant;

(iii) The name of the employer;

(iv) A description of the property subject to the wage lien;

(v) The amount for which the wage lien was claimed;

(vi) The signature of the lien claimant, the lien claimant's assignor, or a person authorized to act on the lien claimant's behalf; and

(vii) A certified acknowledgment as set forth in subsection (4) of this section.

(3) The person filing the notice must mail a copy of the notice to the person against whom the lien claim was made by first-class mail within ten days of filing the notice.

(4) A release of wage lien substantially in the following form is sufficient:

NOTICE OF RELEASE OF WAGE LIEN

. . . . ., claimant, vs. . . . . . ., name of person indebted to claimant:

Notice is hereby given that the wage lien described below is released.

1. NAME OF PERSON FILING NOTICE OF RELEASE:

TELEPHONE NUMBER:

ADDRESS:

RELATIONSHIP TO WAGE LIEN (lien claimant, representative of lien claimant, assignee of lien claimant):

IF THE PERSON SIGNING THIS NOTICE IS NOT THE CLAIMANT, BUT IS AUTHORIZED TO ACT ON BEHALF OF THE CLAIMANT, STATE THE PERSON'S NAME AND REPRESENTATIVE CAPACITY (e.g., officer or employee of claimant; attorney or agent; representative of lien filing service; administrator, representative, or agent of trustees of employee benefit plan):

2. NAME OF LIEN CLAIMANT:

TELEPHONE NUMBER:

ADDRESS:

3. NAME OF EMPLOYER:

4. DESCRIPTION OF THE REAL PROPERTY OR PERSONAL PROPERTY AGAINST WHICH A WAGE LIEN IS CLAIMED (street address, legal description, or other information that will reasonably describe the property, or statement that the wage lien covers all personal property):

5. AMOUNT OF WAGE LIEN CLAIM:

ACKNOWLEDGMENT

FOR AN ACKNOWLEDGMENT IN AN INDIVIDUAL CAPACITY:

STATE OF WASHINGTON, COUNTY OF

. . . . . ., ss.

. . . . . ., being sworn, says: I, . . .(name of person). . ., am the (claimant/assignee of the claimant). I have read the foregoing release of wage lien and believe the notice to be true and correct under penalty of perjury.

. . . . . .Dated:

(Signature)

FOR AN ACKNOWLEDGMENT IN A REPRESENTATIVE CAPACITY:

STATE OF WASHINGTON, COUNTY OF

. . . . . ., ss.

. . . . . ., being sworn, says: I, . . .(name of person). . ., am authorized to act on behalf of (claimant/assignee of the claimant). I have read the foregoing release of wage lien and believe the notice to be true and correct under penalty of perjury.

. . . . . .Dated:

(Signature)

CERTIFICATE

FOR A CERTIFICATE OF ACKNOWLEDGMENT IN AN INDIVIDUAL CAPACITY:

I certify that I know or have satisfactory evidence that . . . (name of person) . . . is the person who appeared before me, and said person acknowledged that he/she signed this instrument and acknowledged it to be his/her free and voluntary act for the uses and purposes mentioned in the instrument.

. . . . .Dated:

(Signature)

(Seal or stamp)

. . . . . . Title

. . . . . . My appointment

. . . . . . Expires

FOR A CERTIFICATE OF ACKNOWLEDGMENT IN A REPRESENTATIVE CAPACITY:

I certify that I know or have satisfactory evidence that . . . (name of person) . . . is the person who appeared before me, and said person acknowledged that he/she signed this instrument, on oath stated that he/she was authorized to execute the instrument and acknowledged it as the . . . (type of authority, e.g., officer or employee, etc.) . . . of . . . (name of party on behalf of whom instrument was executed) . . . to be the free and voluntary act of such party for the uses and purposes mentioned in the instrument.

. . . . . . Dated:

(Signature)

(Seal or stamp)

. . . . . . Title

. . . . . . My appointment

. . . . . . Expires

NEW SECTION. **Sec.**  (1) Except as provided in subsections (2) and (3) of this section, a wage lien recorded under this chapter has priority over all other debts, judgments, decrees, liens, or security interests against the property subject to the wage lien, regardless as to whether these debts, judgments, decrees, liens, or security interests originated before or after the wage lien, and regardless of whether these debts, judgments, decrees, liens, or security interests were perfected prior to the wage lien. A wage lien recorded under this chapter has priority over a lien or security interest of a financial institution only up to four percent of the financial institution's security interest in the property that is encumbered by the wage lien.

(2) A statutory lien for wages owed, including but not limited to liens under chapters 60.04, 60.11, 60.16, 60.24, 60.28, 60.34, and 60.76 RCW, ranks according to priority in time of filing.

(3)(a) A wage lien recorded under this chapter does not have priority over a lien for taxes that the department of revenue is authorized or required to collect and that originates before a lien recorded under this chapter.

(b) A wage lien recorded under this chapter does not have priority over liens or income withholding for child support obligations.

(4) A wage lien is effective against the estate of the employer.

NEW SECTION. **Sec.**  A contract between an employer and employee may not waive or require an employee to waive the right to a wage lien under this chapter. A provision of a contract made in violation of this section is void as against the public policy of this state.

NEW SECTION. **Sec.**  The claim of wage lien, when filed as required by this chapter, constitutes notice to the spouse or the domestic partner of the person who appears on record to be the owner of the property sought to be charged with the wage lien, and subjects all the community interest of both spouses or both domestic partners to the wage lien.

NEW SECTION. **Sec.**  This chapter is to be liberally construed to provide security for all persons intended to be protected by its provisions.

**Sec.**  RCW 49.48.086 and 2014 c 210 s 1 are each amended to read as follows:

(1) After a final order is issued under RCW 49.48.084, if an employer defaults in the payment of: (a) Any wages determined by the department to be owed to an employee, including interest; or (b) any civil penalty ordered by the department under RCW 49.48.083, the director may file with the clerk of any county within the state a warrant in the amount of the payment plus any filing fees. The clerk of the county in which the warrant is filed shall immediately designate a superior court cause number for the warrant, and the clerk shall cause to be entered in the judgment docket under the superior court cause number assigned to the warrant, the name of the employer mentioned in the warrant, the amount of payment due on it plus any filing fees, and the date when the warrant was filed. The aggregate amount of the warrant as docketed becomes a lien upon the title to, and interest in, all real and personal property of the employer against whom the warrant is issued, the same as a judgment in a civil case docketed in the office of the clerk. The sheriff shall proceed upon the warrant in all respects and with like effect as prescribed by law with respect to execution or other process issued against rights or property upon judgment in a court of competent jurisdiction. The warrant so docketed is sufficient to support the issuance of writs of garnishment in favor of the state in a manner provided by law in case of judgment, wholly or partially unsatisfied. The clerk of the court is entitled to a filing fee which will be added to the amount of the warrant. A copy of the warrant shall be mailed to the employer within three days of filing with the clerk.

(2)(a) The director may issue to any person, firm, corporation, other entity, municipal corporation, political subdivision of the state, a public corporation, or any agency of the state, a notice and order to withhold and deliver property of any kind when he or she has reason to believe that there is in the possession of the person, firm, corporation, other entity, municipal corporation, political subdivision of the state, public corporation, or agency of the state, property that is or will become due, owing, or belonging to an employer upon whom a notice of assessment has been served by the department for payments or civil penalties due to the department. The effect of a notice and order is continuous from the date the notice and order is first made until the liability out of which the notice and order arose is satisfied or becomes unenforceable because of lapse of time. The department shall release the notice and order when the liability out of which the notice and order arose is satisfied or becomes unenforceable by reason of lapse of time and shall notify the person against whom the notice and order was made that the notice and order has been released.

(b) The notice and order to withhold and deliver must be served by the sheriff of the county or by the sheriff's deputy, by certified mail, return receipt requested, or by the director. A person, firm, corporation, other entity, municipal corporation, political subdivision of the state, public corporation, or agency of the state upon whom service has been made shall answer the notice within twenty days exclusive of the day of service, under oath and in writing, and shall make true answers to the matters inquired of in the notice and order. Upon service of the notice and order, if the party served possesses any property that may be subject to the claim of the department, the party shall promptly deliver the property to the director. The director shall hold the property in trust for application on the employer's indebtedness to the department, or for return without interest, in accordance with a final determination of a petition for review. In the alternative, the party shall furnish a good and sufficient surety bond satisfactory to the director conditioned upon final determination of liability. If a party served and named in the notice fails to answer the notice within the time prescribed in this section, the court may render judgment by default against the party for the full amount claimed by the director in the notice, together with costs. If a notice is served upon an employer and the property subject to it is wages, the employer may assert in the answer all exemptions provided for by chapter 6.27 RCW to which the wage earner is entitled.

(c) As an alternative to the methods of service described in this section, the department may electronically serve a financial institution with a notice and order to withhold and deliver by providing a list of its outstanding warrants, except those for which a payment agreement is in good standing, to the department of revenue. The department of revenue may include the warrants provided by the department in a notice and order to withhold and deliver served under RCW 82.32.235(3). A financial institution that is served with a notice and order to withhold and deliver under this subsection (2)(c) must answer the notice within the time period applicable to service under RCW 82.32.235(3). The department and the department of revenue may adopt rules to implement this subsection (2)(c).

(3)(a) In addition to the procedure for collection of wages owed, including interest, and civil penalties as set forth in this section, the department may recover wages owed, including interest, and civil penalties assessed under RCW 49.48.083 in a civil action brought in a court of competent jurisdiction of the county where the violation is alleged to have occurred.

(b) The department may use the procedures under this section to foreclose wage liens established under chapter 60.--- RCW (the new chapter created in section 15 of this act). When the department is foreclosing on a wage lien, the date the wage lien was originally filed shall be the date by which priority is determined, regardless of the date the warrant is filed under this section. If a claimant has timely notified the department that the claimant will pursue foreclosure on their own, without the department's assistance, the department is not required to file a warrant under this section and is relieved from any liability related to foreclosing on the claimant's wage lien.

(4) Whenever any employer quits business, sells out, exchanges, or otherwise disposes of the employer's business or stock of goods, any person who becomes a successor to the business becomes liable for the full amount of any outstanding citation and notice of assessment or penalty against the employer's business under this chapter if, at the time of the conveyance of the business, the successor has: (a) Actual knowledge of the fact and amount of the outstanding citation and notice of assessment or (b) a prompt, reasonable, and effective means of accessing and verifying the fact and amount of the outstanding citation and notice of assessment from the department. If the citation and notice of assessment or penalty is not paid in full by the employer within ten days of the date of the sale, exchange, or disposal, the successor is liable for the payment of the full amount of the citation and notice of assessment or penalty, and payment thereof by the successor must, to the extent thereof, be deemed a payment upon the purchase price. If the payment is greater in amount than the purchase price, the amount of the difference becomes a debt due the successor from the employer.

(5) This section does not affect other collection remedies that are otherwise provided by law.

NEW SECTION. **Sec.**  A new section is added to chapter 43.24 RCW to read as follows:

For the purposes of implementing the notice and filing provisions under sections 4(2)(a) and 7 of this act that are applicable to the department of licensing, the department of licensing may, by rule, create wage lien forms specific to the department of licensing, so long as the forms include the information described in those sections.

NEW SECTION. **Sec.**  A new section is added to chapter 43.24 RCW to read as follows:

The department of licensing wage lien account is created in the state treasury. All receipts from wage lien filing fees collected by the department of licensing must be deposited in the account. Moneys in the account may be spent only after appropriation. Expenditures from the account may be used only to administer wage lien filings in section 4 of this act.

NEW SECTION. **Sec.**  This act takes effect January 1, 2020.

NEW SECTION. **Sec.**  Sections 1 through 11 and 15 of this act constitute a new chapter in Title 60 RCW.

**--- END ---**