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SENATE BILL 5672

State of Washington 67th Legislature 2022 Regular Session

By Senators Braun, Brown, Dozier, Fortunato, Honeyford, Mullet, Padden, Rivers, Short, Wagoner, Warnick, and L. Wilson

Prefiled 01/05/22. Read first time 01/10/22. Referred to Committee on Health & Long Term Care.

- AN ACT Relating to long-term services and supports trust premium refunds for deceased individuals with developmentally disabled dependents; and amonding PCW 50R 04 080
- 3 dependents; and amending RCW 50B.04.080.
- 4 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF WASHINGTON:
- 5 **Sec. 1.** RCW 50B.04.080 and 2020 c 98 s 4 are each amended to 6 read as follows:
 - (1) Beginning January 1, 2022, the employment security department shall assess for each individual in employment with an employer a premium based on the amount of the individual's wages. The initial premium rate is fifty-eight hundredths of one percent individual's wages. Beginning January 1, 2024, and biennially thereafter, the premium rate shall be set by the pension funding council at a rate no greater than fifty-eight hundredths of one percent. In addition, the pension funding council must set the premium rate at the lowest amount necessary to maintain the actuarial solvency of the long-term services and supports trust account created in RCW 50B.04.100 in accordance with recognized insurance principles and designed to attempt to limit fluctuations in the premium rate. To facilitate the premium rate setting the office of the state actuary must perform a biennial actuarial audit and valuation of the fund and make recommendations to the pension funding council.

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(2) (a) The employer must collect from the employees the premiums provided under this section through payroll deductions and remit the amounts collected to the employment security department.

- (b) In collecting employee premiums through payroll deductions, the employer shall act as the agent of the employees and shall remit the amounts to the employment security department as required by this chapter.
- (3) Nothing in this chapter requires any party to a collective bargaining agreement in existence on October 19, 2017, to reopen negotiations of the agreement or to apply any of the responsibilities under this chapter unless and until the existing agreement is reopened or renegotiated by the parties or expires.
- (4)(a) Premiums shall be collected in the manner and at such intervals as provided in this chapter and directed by the employment security department.
- (b) To the extent feasible, the employment security department shall use the premium assessment, collection, and reporting procedures in Title 50A RCW.
- (5) The employment security department shall deposit all premiums collected in this section in the long-term services and supports trust account created in RCW 50B.04.100.
- (6) Premiums collected in this section are placed in the trust account for the individuals who become eligible for the program.
- (7) If the premiums established in this section are increased, the legislature shall notify each qualified individual by mail that the person's premiums have been increased, describe the reason for increasing the premiums, and describe the plan for restoring the funds so that premiums are returned to fifty-eight hundredths of one percent of the individual's wages.
- (8) A refund of premiums must be provided for a deceased qualified individual with a dependent who is an individual with a developmental disability who is dependent for support from the qualified individual. The qualified individual must not have been determined to be an eligible beneficiary by the department of social and health services. The refund shall be deposited into an individual trust account within the developmental disabilities endowment trust fund for the benefit of the dependent with a developmental disability.

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