
SENATE BILL 5875

State of Washington

67th Legislature

2022 Regular Session

By Senators Nguyen, Lovelett, Lovick, Nobles, Stanford, and C. Wilson

Read first time 01/17/22. Referred to Committee on Labor, Commerce & Tribal Affairs.

1 AN ACT Relating to adding employees employed by the department of
2 licensing who are assigned to review, process, approve, and issue
3 driver licenses to the definition of frontline employees under the
4 health emergency labor standards act; and amending RCW 51.32.181.

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

6 **Sec. 1.** RCW 51.32.181 and 2021 c 252 s 1 are each amended to
7 read as follows:

8 (1) For frontline employees who are covered under this title,
9 there exists a prima facie presumption that any infectious or
10 contagious diseases that are transmitted through respiratory droplets
11 or aerosols, or through contact with contaminated surfaces and are
12 the subject of a public health emergency are occupational diseases
13 under RCW 51.08.140 during a public health emergency.

14 (2) The frontline employee must provide verification, as required
15 by the department by rule, to the department and the self-insured
16 employer that the employee has contracted the infectious or
17 contagious disease that is the subject of the public health
18 emergency.

19 (3) This presumption of occupational disease may be rebutted by a
20 preponderance of the evidence that:

1 (a) The exposure to the infectious or contagious disease which is
2 the subject of the public health emergency occurred from other
3 employment or nonemployment activities; or

4 (b) The employee was working from the employee's home, on leave
5 from the employee's employment, or some combination thereof, for the
6 period of quarantine consistent with recommended guidance from state
7 and federal health officials for the disease immediately prior to the
8 employee's injury, occupational disease, or period of incapacity that
9 resulted from exposure to the disease which is the subject of the
10 public health emergency.

11 (4) (a) RCW 51.32.090(7) does not apply to an occupational disease
12 under this section except that no worker shall receive compensation
13 for or during the day on which the occupational disease was
14 contracted. For the purposes of this subsection (4), the day on which
15 the occupational disease was contracted is whichever date occurs
16 first of the following:

17 (i) The date that the worker first missed work due to symptoms of
18 the infectious or contagious disease;

19 (ii) The date the worker was quarantined by a medical provider or
20 public health official; or

21 (iii) The date the worker received a positive test result
22 confirming contraction of the infectious or contagious disease.

23 (b) If leave or similar benefits are paid to the frontline
24 employee as part of a federal or state program for these employees
25 during the public health emergency, temporary total disability
26 benefits are not payable for the same period of time covered by the
27 federal or state program.

28 (5) When calculating assessments due to the department for which
29 total claim costs are the basis, self-insured employers and self-
30 insurance hospital groups formed under RCW 51.14.150 and 51.14.160
31 may deduct the cost of payments made under this section from the
32 total of all claim costs reported.

33 (6) Costs of the payments under this section shall not affect the
34 experience rating of employers insured by the state fund.

35 (7) As used in this section:

36 (a) "Assisted living facility" has the same meaning as in RCW
37 18.20.020.

38 (b) "Farm work" means work performed on a farm, in the employ of
39 any person, in connection with the cultivation of the soil, or in
40 connection with raising or harvesting any agricultural or

1 horticultural commodity, including raising, shearing, feeding, caring
2 for, training, and management of livestock, bees, poultry, and
3 furbearing animals and wildlife, or in the employ of the owner or
4 tenant or other operator of a farm in connection with the operation,
5 management, conservation, improvement, or maintenance of such farm
6 and its tools and equipment. For the purposes of this subsection,
7 "farm work" includes floriculture.

8 (c) "Food distribution work" means work where the primary duties
9 include transporting food from food producers or manufacturers to
10 food warehouses or food service operators and retailers.

11 (d) "Food manufacturing work" means work performed for an
12 employer whose North American industry classification code is within
13 "311."

14 (e) "Food processing work" means work handling or processing of
15 any food in any manner of preparation for sale for an employer
16 required to be licensed by the department of agriculture under
17 chapter 69.07 RCW.

18 (f) "Frontline employee" includes the following employees:

19 (i) First responders, including law enforcement officers,
20 firefighters, emergency medical service providers, paramedics, and
21 ambulance drivers. "Firefighters" includes wildland firefighters when
22 performing wildfire suppression or other emergency duties under the
23 incident command system if the firefighter has in-person interaction
24 with the general public or other firefighters as part of their job
25 duties;

26 (ii) Employees performing food processing, food manufacturing,
27 food distribution, farm, and meat packing work;

28 (iii) Maintenance, janitorial, and food service workers at any
29 facility treating patients diagnosed with the infectious or
30 contagious disease that is the subject of the public health
31 emergency;

32 (iv) Drivers and operators employed by a transit agency or any
33 other public entity authorized under state law to provide mass
34 transportation services to the general public;

35 (v) Employees working at a child care facility licensed by the
36 department of children, youth, and families under chapter 43.216 RCW,
37 if the employee has in-person interaction with children or other
38 members of the general public as part of their job duties;

39 (vi) Employees employed by a retail store that remains open to
40 the general public during the public health emergency, if the

1 employee has in-person interaction with the general public as part of
2 their job duties or has in-person interaction with other employees.
3 For the purposes of this subsection, "retail store" means a business
4 whose North American industry classification code is within "44-45";

5 (vii) Employees employed by a hotel, motel, or other transient
6 accommodation licensed under chapter 70.62 RCW that remains open to
7 the general public during the public health emergency, if the
8 employee has in-person interaction with the general public as part of
9 their job duties or has in-person interaction with other employees;

10 (viii) Employees employed by a restaurant, if the employee has
11 in-person interaction with the general public as part of their job
12 duties or works in the kitchen of the restaurant and has in-person
13 interaction with other employees. For the purposes of this
14 subsection, "restaurant" has the same meaning as in RCW 66.04.010;

15 (ix) Home care aides certified under chapter 18.88B RCW and home
16 health aides that provide services under chapter 70.126 RCW that
17 primarily work in the home of the individual receiving care;

18 (x) (A) Corrections officers and correctional support employees
19 working at a correctional institution.

20 (B) For the purposes of this subsection (7) (f) (x):

21 (I) "Correctional institution" has the same meaning as in RCW
22 9.94.049.

23 (II) "Corrections officer" means any corrections agency employee
24 whose primary job function is to provide custody, safety, and
25 security of prisoners in jails and detention facilities.

26 (III) "Correctional support employee" means any employee who
27 provides food services or janitorial services in a correctional
28 institution;

29 (xi) Educational employees, including classroom teachers,
30 paraeducators, principals, librarians, school bus drivers, and other
31 educational support staff, of any school district, or a contractor of
32 a school district, that are required to be physically present at a
33 school or on the grounds of a school where classes are being taught
34 in person, in a transportation vehicle necessary for school
35 operations, or in the home of a student as part of their job duties,
36 if the employee has in-person interaction with students, a student's
37 family members, or other employees as part of their job duties;

38 (xii) Employees of institutions of higher education that are
39 required to be physically present on campus when classes are being
40 taught in person, if the employee has in-person interaction with

1 students or the general public as part of their job duties. For the
2 purposes of this subsection, "institution of higher education" has
3 the same meaning as in RCW 28B.10.016;

4 (xiii) Employees employed by a public library that remains open
5 to the general public during the public health emergency, if the
6 employee has in-person interaction with the general public as part of
7 their job duties or has in-person interaction with other employees.
8 For the purposes of this subsection, "public library" means a library
9 covered by chapter 27.12 RCW;

10 (xiv) Employees employed by the department of licensing who are
11 assigned to review, process, approve, and issue driver licenses to
12 the general public, if the employee has in-person interaction with
13 the general public as part of their job duties or has in-person
14 interaction with other employees.

15 (g) "Meat packing work" means work slaughtering animals and
16 processing and packaging meat products for sale and the rendering of
17 animal by-products.

18 (h) "Nursing home" means a nursing home licensed under chapter
19 18.51 RCW.

20 (i) "Public health emergency" means a declaration or order
21 concerning any infectious or contagious diseases, including a
22 pandemic and is issued as follows:

23 (i) The president of the United States has declared a national or
24 regional emergency that covers every county in the state of
25 Washington; or

26 (ii) The governor of Washington has declared a state of emergency
27 under RCW 43.06.010(12) in every county in the state.

28 (j) "School" has the same meaning as in RCW 28A.210.070.

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