

**SHB 1893** - H AMD 971

By Representative Walsh

NOT ADOPTED 02/13/2024

1 On page 4, beginning on line 33, strike all of subsection (k)

2

3 On page 6, after line 39, insert the following:

4 "(6) If an individual's unemployment is due to a strike at the  
5 separating employer's factory, establishment, or other premises at  
6 which the individual is or was last employed, the benefit payments may  
7 not be charged to the experience rating account of any employer, and  
8 may not be factored into the social cost factor for the total taxable  
9 payroll for purposes of RCW 50.29.025. The benefit payments must be  
10 paid in accordance with section 4 of this act.

11

12 NEW SECTION. Sec. 3. A new section is added to chapter 50.16  
13 RCW to read as follows:

14 The striking worker benefit account is created in the custody of  
15 the state treasurer. Funds in the account must consist of all  
16 contributions collected under section 4 of this act, appropriations  
17 and transfers by the legislature, and all other funding directed for  
18 deposit into the account. Expenditures from the account may be used  
19 only for providing benefits under section 5 of this act. Only the  
20 commissioner or the commissioner's designee may authorize  
21 expenditures from the account. The account is subject to allotment  
22 procedures under chapter 43.88 RCW, but an appropriation is not  
23 required for expenditures.

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25 NEW SECTION. Sec. 4. A new section is added to chapter 50.24  
26 RCW to read as follows:

27

1 The department shall adopt rules establishing requirements for  
2 collecting contributions from employees who are members of  
3 collective bargaining units to be deposited into the fund under  
4 section 3 of this act for the purposes of paying benefits under  
5 section 5 of this act. The department shall establish a rate for  
6 contributions based on an estimate of the benefits projected to be  
7 paid to striking workers under section 5 of this act. The rate must  
8 be based on a percentage of monthly dues paid to bargaining unit  
9 representatives.

10

11 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 5.** A new section is added to chapter 50.20  
12 RCW to read as follows:

13 If an individual's unemployment is due to a strike at the  
14 separating employer's factory, establishment, or other premises at  
15 which the individual is or was last employed, those benefit payments  
16 must be paid from the account under section 3 of this act. Benefits  
17 are subject to the availability of funds."

18

19 Renumber the remaining section consecutively and correct any  
20 internal references accordingly. Correct the title.

21

EFFECT:

- Requires unemployment insurance (UI) benefits for striking workers to be paid from contributions collected from unionized workers.
- Requires the Employment Security Department to adopt rules to establish requirements for setting a rate for contributions and for collecting contributions from unionized workers. Requires the rate to be a percentage of monthly union dues.
- Establishes the Striking Worker Benefit Account, which must consist of worker contributions and appropriations and transfers by the Legislature.
- Excludes UI benefits paid to striking workers from being factored into UI payroll taxes.

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