

# SENATE BILL REPORT

## SB 5061

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As of January 16, 2025

**Title:** An act relating to requiring wages for laborers, workers, and mechanics in public works contracts to be at least the prevailing rate of wage in effect at the time the work is performed.

**Brief Description:** Requiring certain wages in public works contracts to be at least the prevailing wage in effect when the work is performed.

**Sponsors:** Senators Conway, Saldaña, Riccelli, Lias, Valdez, Chapman, Hasegawa, Nobles, Salomon and Stanford.

**Brief History:**

**Committee Activity:** Labor & Commerce: 1/24/25.

**Brief Summary of Bill**

- Requires public works contracts to provide for the payment of prevailing wages at the time the work is performed.

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### SENATE COMMITTEE ON LABOR & COMMERCE

**Staff:** Jarrett Sacks (786-7448)

**Background:** State law requires prevailing wages be paid to laborers, workers, and mechanics employed upon all public works and under all public building service maintenance contracts. Public works means all work, construction, alteration, repair, or improvement other than ordinary maintenance executed at the cost of the state or any municipality.

The industrial statistician of the Department of Labor and Industries (L&I) establishes the prevailing wage by adopting the hourly wage, usual benefits, and overtime established in collective bargaining agreements for those trades and occupations that have collective

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bargaining agreements. L&I publishes prevailing wage rates in August and February, and any updated rates take effect 30 days after publication.

The prevailing wage rate for workers is determined at the time of the prime contractor's bid due date, or the date the contract is awarded if the contract is not awarded within six months of the bid due date. The prevailing wage rate determined at that time remains the same for the life of the project.

**Summary of Bill:** Public works contracts must stipulate that the hourly minimum rate of wage for laborers, workers, or mechanics must be adjusted to provide that the wage is not less than the latest prevailing rate of wage in effect at the time the work is performed.

**Appropriation:** None.

**Fiscal Note:** Requested on January 13, 2025.

**Creates Committee/Commission/Task Force that includes Legislative members:** No.

**Effective Date:** The bill takes effect on July 1, 2026.