
HOUSE BILL 1511

State of Washington

69th Legislature

2025 Regular Session

By Representatives Parshley, Fosse, Berry, Reed, Simmons, Leavitt, Fitzgibbon, Ramel, and Paul

Read first time 01/22/25. Referred to Committee on Labor & Workplace Standards.

1 AN ACT Relating to Washington state ferries captains; and
2 amending RCW 47.64.340.

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

4 **Sec. 1.** RCW 47.64.340 and 2011 1st sp.s. c 16 s 8 are each
5 amended to read as follows:

6 (1) The captain of a Washington state ferry vessel, also known as
7 the master of a vessel or the commanding officer, is the ultimate
8 authority on, (~~manager of,~~) and has responsibility for, the entire
9 vessel and its Washington state ferries personnel while it is (~~in~~
10 service)) under their command. The captain's responsibilities
11 include, but are not limited to:

12 (a) Ensuring the safe navigation of the vessel and its crew and
13 passengers;

14 (b) Following all applicable international, federal, and state
15 laws and regulations, and agency policies (~~and regulations~~);

16 (c) (~~Supervising~~) Directing crew in performance, operations,
17 training, security, and environmental protection;

18 (d) Overseeing all aspects of vessel operations;

19 (e) Ensuring that the vessel operations and its Washington state
20 ferries personnel satisfy performance expectations set forth by the
21 department; and

1 (f) ((Managing)) Coordinating vessel arrivals and departures, as
2 well as all other vessel operations while the vessel is in
3 ((service)) their command.

4 ~~((3) [(2)] Effective July 1, 2013, the public employment~~
5 ~~relations commission shall sever from the masters, mates, and pilots~~
6 ~~bargaining unit all captains. By August 31, 2011, if a majority of~~
7 ~~the captains in the masters, mates, and pilots bargaining unit~~
8 ~~indicate by vote that they desire to be included in a newly formed~~
9 ~~captains-only bargaining unit, the public employment relations~~
10 ~~commission shall certify a captains-only bargaining unit, to be~~
11 ~~effective July 1, 2013. For the vote described in this subsection, a~~
12 ~~union seeking to represent captains does not have to demonstrate a~~
13 ~~showing of interest to be included on a ballot. Notwithstanding the~~
14 ~~results of a vote, captains shall remain a part of the masters,~~
15 ~~mates, and pilots bargaining unit through June 30, 2013.~~

16 ~~(4) [(3)] If a new captains-only bargaining unit is created, the~~
17 ~~employer and the exclusive bargaining representative for the~~
18 ~~captains-only bargaining unit must negotiate a collective bargaining~~
19 ~~agreement exclusive to the captains-only bargaining unit.~~

20 ~~(5) [(4)]) (2) By August 31, 2025, if a majority of the captains~~
21 ~~in the masters and pilots bargaining unit indicate by vote that they~~
22 ~~desire to be included in the combined masters, mates, and pilots~~
23 ~~bargaining unit, the public employees relations commission shall~~
24 ~~certify a combined masters, mates, and pilots bargaining unit, to be~~
25 ~~effective July 1, 2026.~~

26 (3) Beginning with negotiations covering the ((2013-2015))
27 2027-2029 biennium, if the condition described in subsection (2) of
28 this section is satisfied, then the employer and the exclusive
29 bargaining representative of the ((captains-only)) masters, mates,
30 and pilots bargaining unit must negotiate collective bargaining
31 agreements that are consistent with this section. Otherwise, the
32 employer and the exclusive bargaining representative of the captains-
33 only bargaining unit must negotiate collective bargaining agreements
34 that are consistent with this section.

35 ~~((6) [(5)] A collective bargaining agreement may not contain any~~
36 ~~provision that extends the term of an existing collective bargaining~~
37 ~~agreement or applicability of items incompatible with this section in~~
38 ~~an existing collective bargaining agreement.))~~

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