
SUBSTITUTE SENATE BILL 6292

State of Washington

59th Legislature

2006 Regular Session

By Senate Committee on Labor, Commerce, Research & Development
(originally sponsored by Senators Kohl-Welles, Parlette, Keiser,
Thibaudeau, Kline, McAuliffe and Mulliken)

READ FIRST TIME 02/02/06.

1 AN ACT Relating to an exemption from unemployment compensation
2 contributions for certain small performing arts industries; amending
3 RCW 50.04.320; and adding a new section to chapter 50.04 RCW.

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

5 **Sec. 1.** RCW 50.04.320 and 1998 c 162 s 1 are each amended to read
6 as follows:

7 (1) For the purpose of payment of contributions, "wages" means the
8 remuneration paid by one employer during any calendar year to an
9 individual in its employment under this title or the unemployment
10 compensation law of any other state in the amount specified in RCW
11 50.24.010. If an employer (hereinafter referred to as a successor
12 employer) during any calendar year acquires substantially all the
13 operating assets of another employer (hereinafter referred to as a
14 predecessor employer) or assets used in a separate unit of a trade or
15 business of a predecessor employer, and immediately after the
16 acquisition employs in the individual's trade or business an individual
17 who immediately before the acquisition was employed in the trade or
18 business of the predecessor employer, then, for the purposes of
19 determining the amount of remuneration paid by the successor employer

1 to the individual during the calendar year which is subject to
2 contributions, any remuneration paid to the individual by the
3 predecessor employer during that calendar year and before the
4 acquisition shall be considered as having been paid by the successor
5 employer.

6 (2) For the purpose of payment of benefits, "wages" means the
7 remuneration paid by one or more employers to an individual for
8 employment under this title during his base year: PROVIDED, That at
9 the request of a claimant, wages may be calculated on the basis of
10 remuneration payable. The department shall notify each claimant that
11 wages are calculated on the basis of remuneration paid, but at the
12 claimant's request a redetermination may be performed and based on
13 remuneration payable.

14 (3) For the purpose of payment of benefits and payment of
15 contributions, the term "wages" includes tips which are received after
16 January 1, 1987, while performing services which constitute employment,
17 and which are reported to the employer for federal income tax purposes.

18 (4)(a) "Remuneration" means all compensation paid for personal
19 services including commissions and bonuses and the cash value of all
20 compensation paid in any medium other than cash. The reasonable cash
21 value of compensation paid in any medium other than cash and the
22 reasonable value of gratuities shall be estimated and determined in
23 accordance with rules prescribed by the commissioner. Remuneration
24 does not include payments to members of a reserve component of the
25 armed forces of the United States, including the organized militia of
26 the state of Washington, for the performance of duty for periods not
27 exceeding seventy-two hours at a time. Remuneration also does not
28 include any stipend of one hundred dollars per week or less, up to a
29 maximum of six hundred dollars a year provided to a person involved in
30 performances sponsored by a business whose North American industry
31 classification code is within "711110," "711120," "711130," or "712110"
32 and which business employs no more than three employees paid for their
33 services performed in the same calendar year.

34 (b) Previously accrued compensation, other than severance pay or
35 payments received pursuant to plant closure agreements, when assigned
36 to a specific period of time by virtue of a collective bargaining
37 agreement, individual employment contract, customary trade practice, or
38 request of the individual compensated, shall be considered remuneration

1 for the period to which it is assigned. Assignment clearly occurs when
2 the compensation serves to make the individual eligible for all regular
3 fringe benefits for the period to which the compensation is assigned.

4 (c) Settlements or other proceeds received by an individual as a
5 result of a negotiated settlement for termination of an individual
6 written employment contract prior to its expiration date shall be
7 considered remuneration. The proceeds shall be deemed assigned in the
8 same intervals and in the same amount for each interval as compensation
9 was allocated under the contract.

10 (d) Except as provided in (c) of this subsection, the provisions of
11 this subsection (4) pertaining to the assignment of previously accrued
12 compensation shall not apply to individuals subject to RCW 50.44.050.

13 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** A new section is added to chapter 50.04 RCW
14 to read as follows:

15 The term "stipend" as used in this title means reimbursement for
16 expenses incurred as a result of participating in performances
17 sponsored by a business whose North American industry classification
18 code is within "711110," "711120," "711130," or "712110." The expenses
19 for which reimbursement is appropriate include, but are not limited to,
20 child care, mileage, and meals.

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