

# SENATE BILL REPORT

## SB 5604

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As of January 11, 2022

**Title:** An act relating to adding references to contractor licensing laws in workers' compensation, public works, and prevailing wage statutes.

**Brief Description:** Adding references to contractor licensing laws in workers' compensation, public works, and prevailing wage statutes.

**Sponsors:** Senators Keiser and Conway; by request of Department of Labor & Industries.

**Brief History:**

**Committee Activity:** Labor, Commerce & Tribal Affairs: 1/12/22.

**Brief Summary of Bill**

- Adds references to the plumbing contractor licensing statute to existing public works, prevailing wage, and workers' compensation laws.

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### SENATE COMMITTEE ON LABOR, COMMERCE & TRIBAL AFFAIRS

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

**Background:** General and specialty contractors are required to register with the Department of Labor and Industries. In addition to registering, contractors must follow requirements relating to advertising, bonds and insurance, and other matters. Other statutes, including various public works, prevailing wage, and workers' compensation laws make references to the contractor registration laws.

Prior to 2020, plumbing contractors registered under the general construction contractor registration laws. In 2020, the Legislature passed SB 6170, which created a separate plumbing contractor licensing law, requiring plumbing contractors to register under the new law rather than the general construction contractor registration laws.

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*This analysis was prepared by non-partisan legislative staff for the use of legislative members in their deliberations. This analysis is not part of the legislation nor does it constitute a statement of legislative intent.*

**Summary of Bill:** References to the plumbing contractor licensing statute are added to the following statutes:

- the responsible bidder criteria for public works contract;
- the requirement that a public works contractor must verify the responsibility criteria for certain subcontractors;
- statutes regarding liens and collection of unpaid prevailing wages, as well as the contractor debarment statute;
- the independent contractor criteria for the purposes of state prevailing wage and workers' compensation laws; and
- state workers' compensation laws regarding out of state employers covering workers in Washington, record keeping, prime contractor liability for workers' compensation premiums, and stop work orders for failing to provide workers' compensation coverage.

A general reference to other state laws that require a contractor license or registration is also added to the responsible bidder criteria for public works contracts and the independent contractor criteria for prevailing wage.

**Appropriation:** None.

**Fiscal Note:** Available.

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

**Effective Date:** Ninety days after adjournment of session in which bill is passed.