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**SENATE BILL 5059**

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**State of Washington**

**69th Legislature**

**2025 Regular Session**

**By** Senators Lias, Wellman, Stanford, and Chapman

Prefiled 12/16/24.

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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