

2 **SB 5189** - S AMD 020  
3 By Senator Honeyford

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5 Strike everything after the enacting clause and insert the  
6 following:

7 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** There is established in the employment  
8 security department the domestic violence unemployment insurance  
9 special benefits program. The commissioner shall administer the  
10 program using the funds appropriated by the legislature for this act.  
11 The expenses incurred by the commissioner in carrying out this chapter  
12 shall be paid entirely out of the funds appropriated by the legislature  
13 for this act.

14 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** In order to be eligible for benefits under  
15 the domestic violence unemployment insurance special benefits program,  
16 an applicant must have been a victim of domestic violence, as defined  
17 in RCW 26.50.010, or stalking, as defined in RCW 9A.46.110, within two  
18 years before the application date for benefits, and must show that he  
19 or she is seeking safety or relief from the domestic violence by:

20 (1) Relocating to a residence that is separate from the  
21 perpetrator; and

22 (2) Filing a police report or obtaining a restraining order against  
23 the perpetrator.

24 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 3.** In addition to the requirements of section  
25 2 of this act, in order to be eligible for benefits under the domestic  
26 violence unemployment insurance special benefits program, an applicant  
27 must either be unemployed based on a necessity to protect the applicant  
28 or the applicant's immediate family members from domestic violence, as  
29 defined in RCW 26.50.010, and have been denied unemployment insurance  
30 benefits under chapter 50.20 RCW.

31 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 4.** To the extent that funds are available, if  
32 a person establishes eligibility under sections 2 and 3 of this act,  
33 the commissioner shall provide unemployment insurance special benefits

1 in the form of a weekly wage subsidy to the person beginning with the  
2 calendar week in which application was made for unemployment insurance  
3 benefits. The weekly wage subsidy will be an amount equal to the  
4 weekly benefit amount the applicant would have received if benefits had  
5 not been denied under chapter 50.20 RCW. However, the duration and  
6 amount of the weekly wage subsidy received by the applicant may not  
7 exceed the maximum unemployment insurance benefit amount established in  
8 RCW 50.20.120.

9 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 5.** (1) The employment security department shall  
10 provide information to applicants for unemployment insurance special  
11 benefits regarding local services provided under chapter 70.123 RCW and  
12 the availability of protection orders under chapter 26.50 RCW.

13 (2) Weekly wage subsidies are not unemployment insurance benefits  
14 under this title and the issuance of wage subsidies shall not affect an  
15 employer's payment contribution determined under chapter 50.24 RCW, or  
16 an employer's experience rating determined under chapter 50.29 RCW.

17 (3) Information or records concerning an individual receiving or  
18 applying for a weekly wage subsidy under this program is subject to  
19 chapter 50.13 RCW and is not subject to discovery in any judicial  
20 proceeding unless the requirements of RCW 70.123.075 are satisfied.

21 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 6.** The sum of three hundred thousand dollars,  
22 or as much thereof as may be necessary, is appropriated from the public  
23 safety and education account to the employment security department for  
24 the fiscal year ending June 30, 2003, to carry out the purposes of this  
25 act.

26 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 7.** Sections 1 through 5 of this act constitute  
27 a new chapter in Title 50 RCW."

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31 On page 1, line 2 of the title, after "benefits;" strike the  
32 remainder of the title and insert "adding a new chapter to Title 50  
33 RCW; and making an appropriation."

EFFECT: The amendment would allow unemployment insurance special benefits in the form of a weekly wage subsidy for victims of domestic violence who must leave their jobs. The domestic violence unemployment insurance special benefits program is established within the employment security department. Three hundred thousand dollars is appropriated from the public safety and education account.

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