

**ESSB 6189 - H AMD 2177**

By Representative Bergquist

**ADOPTED 03/10/2020**

1 On page 3, after line 18, insert the following:

2

3 "NEW SECTION. **Sec. 5.** A new section is added to chapter 41.05  
4 RCW to read as follows:

5 (1) A school employee eligible as of February 29, 2020, for the  
6 employer contribution towards benefits offered by the school  
7 employees' benefits board shall maintain their eligibility for the  
8 employer contribution under the following circumstances directly  
9 related or in response to the governor's February 29, 2020,  
10 proclamation of a state of emergency existing in all counties in the  
11 state of Washington related to the novel coronavirus (COVID-19):

12 (a) During any school closures or changes in school operations  
13 for the school employee;

14 (b) While the school employee is quarantined or required to care  
15 for a family member, as defined by RCW 49.46.210(2), who is  
16 quarantined; and

17 (c) In order to take care of a child as defined by RCW  
18 49.46.210(2), when the child's:

19 (i) School is closed;

20 (ii) Regular day care facility is closed; or

21 (iii) Regular child care provider is unable to provide services.

22 (2) Requirements in subsection (1) of this section expires when  
23 the governor's state of emergency related to the novel coronavirus  
24 (COVID-19) ends.

25 (3) When regular school operations resume, school employees  
26 shall continue to maintain their eligibility for the employer  
27 contribution for the remainder of the school year so long as their

1 work schedule returns to the schedule in place before February 29,  
2 2020, or, if there is a change in schedule, so long as the new  
3 schedule, had it been in effect at the start of the school year,  
4 would have resulted in the employee being anticipated to work the  
5 minimum hours to meet benefits eligibility.

6 (4) Quarantine, as used in subsection (1)(b) includes only  
7 periods of isolation required by the federal government, a foreign  
8 national government, a state or local public health official, a  
9 health care provider, or an employer.

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11 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 6.** This act is necessary for the immediate  
12 preservation of the public peace, health, or safety, or support of  
13 the state government and its existing public institutions, and takes  
14 effect immediately."

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16 Correct the title.

EFFECT: Adds eligibility provisions to the School Employees'  
Benefits Board administered by the Health Care Authority stating  
that employees maintain eligibility for employer contributions for  
the remainder of the school year if, during the Novel Coronavirus  
(COVID-19) declared state of emergency, the employee would otherwise  
lose eligibility because of (1) school closures or changes in  
operation, (2) an employee being quarantined or required to care for  
a family member, or (3) an employee must take care of a child during  
a school, day care, or child care provider closure.

An emergency clause is added so that the bill takes effect  
immediately.

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