Washington State House of Representatives Office of Program Research

BILL ANALYSIS

Labor & Workplace Standards Committee

HB 2748

Brief Description: Concerning parking cash out programs.

Sponsors: Representatives Ramel, Davis, Fey, Lekanoff and Fitzgibbon.

Brief Summary of Bill

• Requires certain employers to offer a parking cash out program to its employees, if the employer offers a parking subsidy and other criteria are met.

Hearing Date: 1/27/20

Staff: Trudes Tango (786-7384).

Background:

Commute Trip Reduction (CTR) programs are designed to reduce the rates of people driving alone to and from work. All state agency worksites in Thurston County are required to participate in CTR programs. In addition, public and private employers considered to be major employers must have a CTR program with defined CTR goals. Major employers are those with more than 100 employees at a single worksite located in certain urban growth areas. A CTR program may include providing a bus pass and providing rebates for employees who do not use parking facilities.

California and some local government agencies offer parking rebates or cash and public transit passes in lieu of parking.

Summary of Bill:

An employer that employs 50 or more employees in the state, and that provides a parking subsidy to employees, must offer a parking cash out program to employees who are receiving a

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parking subsidy. This requirement applies only to employers who can reduce the number of paid parking spaces it maintains without incurring penalties from a third party that leases parking to the employer.

Under the parking cash out program, the employer must provide a cash allowance to an employee that is equal to the parking subsidy the employer would otherwise provide to the employee. The parking subsidy is the difference between the out-of-pocket amount paid by an employer on a regular basis to secure the availability of an employee parking space not owned by the employer and the price, if any, charged to the employee for use of that space.

The parking cash out program may include a requirement that employees certify that they will comply with guidelines established by the employer designed to avoid neighborhood parking problems.

Appropriation: None.

Fiscal Note: Requested on January 21, 2020.

Effective Date: The bill takes effect 90 days after adjournment of the session in which the bill is passed.