**1323-S AMS KING S2647.1 - NOT FOR FLOOR USE**

**SHB 1323** - S AMD TO HLTC COMM AMD (S-2353.1/21) **624**

By Senator King

**WITHDRAWN 04/10/2021**

On page 5, after line 37, insert the following:

"**Sec.**  RCW 50B.04.080 and 2020 c 98 s 4 are each amended to read as follows:

(1) Beginning January 1, 2022, the employment security department shall assess for each individual in employment with an employer a premium based on the amount of the individual's wages. The initial premium rate is fifty-eight hundredths of one percent of the individual's wages. Beginning January 1, 2024, and biennially thereafter, the premium rate shall be set by the pension funding council at a rate no greater than fifty-eight hundredths of one percent. In addition, the pension funding council must set the premium rate at the lowest amount necessary to maintain the actuarial solvency of the long-term services and supports trust account created in RCW 50B.04.100 in accordance with recognized insurance principles and designed to attempt to limit fluctuations in the premium rate. To facilitate the premium rate setting the office of the state actuary must perform a biennial actuarial audit and valuation of the fund and make recommendations to the pension funding council.

(2)(a) The employer must collect from the employees the premiums provided under this section through payroll deductions and remit the amounts collected to the employment security department.

(b) In collecting employee premiums through payroll deductions, the employer shall act as the agent of the employees and shall remit the amounts to the employment security department as required by this chapter.

(3) Nothing in this chapter requires any party to a collective bargaining agreement in existence on October 19, 2017, to reopen negotiations of the agreement or to apply any of the responsibilities under this chapter unless and until the existing agreement is reopened or renegotiated by the parties or expires.

(4)(a) Premiums shall be collected in the manner and at such intervals as provided in this chapter and directed by the employment security department.

(b) To the extent feasible, the employment security department shall use the premium assessment, collection, and reporting procedures in Title 50A RCW.

(5) The employment security department shall deposit all premiums collected in this section in the long-term services and supports trust account created in RCW 50B.04.100.

(6) Premiums collected in this section are placed in the trust account for the individuals who become eligible for the program.

(7) If the premiums established in this section are increased, the legislature shall notify each qualified individual by mail that the person's premiums have been increased, describe the reason for increasing the premiums, and describe the plan for restoring the funds so that premiums are returned to fifty-eight hundredths of one percent of the individual's wages.

(8) For the purposes of collective bargaining on the behalf of any state employee or public school employee, premium payments under this section are not bargainable as part of any benefit package."

Renumber the remaining sections consecutively and correct any internal references accordingly.

**SHB 1323** - S AMD TO HLTC COMM AMD (S-2353.1/21) **624**

By Senator King

**WITHDRAWN 04/10/2021**

On page 8, line 12, after "50B.04.050," insert "50B.04.080,"

EFFECT: Prohibits the program's premium payments from being included in any state employee's or public school employee's collectively bargained benefits package.