

HOUSE BILL REPORT

SSB 5538

As Passed House:

April 5, 2023

Title: An act relating to postretirement employment in nursing positions for a state agency.

Brief Description: Concerning postretirement employment in nursing positions for a state agency.

Sponsors: Senate Committee on Ways & Means (originally sponsored by Senators Cleveland, Dhingra and Wilson, C.).

Brief History:

Committee Activity:

Appropriations: 3/16/23, 3/23/23 [DP].

Floor Activity:

Passed House: 4/5/23, 87-11.

Brief Summary of Substitute Bill

- Allows certain retirees of the state's pension systems returning to work in a nonadministrative nursing position for a state agency to work up to 1,040 hours while collecting a retirement benefit until July 1, 2026.

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS

Majority Report: Do pass. Signed by 25 members: Representatives Ormsby, Chair; Bergquist, Vice Chair; Gregerson, Vice Chair; Macri, Vice Chair; Chambers, Assistant Ranking Minority Member; Corry, Assistant Ranking Minority Member; Berg, Chopp, Connors, Davis, Fitzgibbon, Hansen, Harris, Lekanoff, Pollet, Riccelli, Rude, Ryu, Senn, Simmons, Slatter, Springer, Steele, Stonier and Tharinger.

Minority Report: Do not pass. Signed by 6 members: Representatives Stokesbary, Ranking Minority Member; Chandler, Couture, Dye, Sandlin and Schmick.

This analysis was prepared by non-partisan legislative staff for the use of legislative members in their deliberations. This analysis is not part of the legislation nor does it constitute a statement of legislative intent.

Staff: David Pringle (786-7310).

Background:

Retirees of the Public Employees' Retirement System (PERS) and the Public Safety Employees' Retirement System (PSERS) are generally able to work up to 867 hours per year in a position covered by any of the state's pension systems while receiving a retirement benefit. A retiree that works more than 867 hours is reinstated as an active member and their retirement benefit ceases.

Members of PERS Plans 2 and 3 have a normal retirement age of 65 and may retire as early as age 55 with a reduced benefit if they meet service credit requirements. Members of PSERS with more than ten years of service have a normal retirement age of 60 and may retire as early as age 53 with a reduced benefit if they meet service credit requirements.

Summary of Bill:

Until July 1, 2026, PERS and PSERS retirees may work for a state agency for up to 1,040 hours per year in a nonadministrative position as a licensed nurse while continuing to receive a pension benefit.

Appropriation: None.

Fiscal Note: Available.

Effective Date: The bill contains an emergency clause and takes effect immediately.

Staff Summary of Public Testimony:

(In support) None.

(Opposed) None.

Persons Testifying: None.

Persons Signed In To Testify But Not Testifying: None.