

---

## Labor & Workplace Standards Committee

---

### SSB 5808

**Brief Description:** Granting interest arbitration to certain public safety telecommunicators.

**Sponsors:** Senate Committee on Labor & Commerce (originally sponsored by Senators Van De Wege, Lovick, Conway, Trudeau, Nguyen, Kuderer, Randall, Dhingra, Hunt, Valdez, Keiser, Stanford, Liias, Hasegawa, Shewmake, Mullet, Nobles and Salomon).

<p><b>Brief Summary of Substitute Bill</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Provides interest arbitration for public safety telecommunicators employed by certain public employers.</li></ul>
--



**Hearing Date:** 2/14/24

**Staff:** Trudes Tango (786-7384).

**Background:**

Interest Arbitration Under the Public Employees' Collective Bargaining Act.

The Public Employees' Collective Bargaining Act (PECBA) provides for collective bargaining of wages, hours, and working conditions with employees of cities, counties, and other political subdivisions, as well as to certain employees of institutions of higher education.

For certain uniformed personnel under the PECBA, there is a public policy against strikes as a means of settling labor disputes. To resolve impasses over contract negotiations with these personnel, the PECBA requires binding interest arbitration if negotiations for a contract reach impasse and cannot be resolved through mediation. Under interest arbitration, an impartial third-party arbitrator makes decisions regarding the unresolved terms of the contract. There are statutory procedures for parties to select arbitrators and factors the arbitration panel must

---

*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.*

consider when making its decision.

Public Safety Telecommunicators.

A public safety telecommunicator is a first responder working in a primary public safety answering point who has successfully completed training and certification standards. This includes an employee of the state, a local public agency, or an independent governmental agency whose primary responsibility is to receive, process, transmit, or dispatch 911 calls for law enforcement, fire, emergency medical, and other public safety services.

**Summary of Bill:**

The interest arbitration provisions under the PECBA are applied to public safety telecommunicators employed by public employers. The provisions do not apply to public safety telecommunicators employed by the Washington State Patrol or any other state agency.

**Appropriation:** None.

**Fiscal Note:** Available.

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