VETO MESSAGE ON SB 6097

June 20, 2003

To the Honorable President and Members,
The Senate of the State of Washington

Ladies and Gentlemen:

I am returning herewith, without my approval as to section 28
Second Engrossed Senate Bill No. 6097 entitled:

> "AN ACT Relating to revising the unemployment compensation
> system through creating forty rate classes for determining
> employer contribution rates;"

This bill makes substantive and historic changes to our
unemployment insurance (UI) system.

Section 28 would have required claimants who file initial and
weekly claims electronically or telephonically to provide
additional proof of identity, such as a driver's license. I have
vetoed this section because it nullifies all the advancements and
efficiencies gained with TeleCenters and Internet filing. This
requirement would also place a burden on individuals who live in
rural areas not located near one of the Work Source offices. The
Department of Employment Security uses an extensive process to
minimize the possibility of fraudulent claims. If there is any
doubt regarding identity, the department may issue an affidavit of
identity to the claimant that must be notarized before any benefits
are paid. The department may also require an individual to appear
in person, if necessary.

I am not vetoing section 4, which establishes a list of personal
and work-related reasons that an individual may quit for "good
cause" and receive UI benefits while searching for other work.
However, without the benefit of experience, I appreciate concerns
expressed about the unforeseeable nature of some of the practical
effects of these amendments. Accordingly, I hereby instruct the
Commissioner of the Department of Employment Security to track all
impacts associated with the amendments in section 4, and to report
her findings to me by June 2005.

For these reasons, I have vetoed section 28 of Second Engrossed
Senate Bill No. 6097.

With the exception of section 28, Second Engrossed Senate Bill No.
6097 is approved.

Respectfully submitted,
Gary Locke
Governor