

FINAL BILL REPORT

HB 1672

C 242 L 18
Synopsis as Enacted

Brief Description: Concerning the time period for workers to recover wages under prevailing wage laws.

Sponsors: Representatives Frame, Sells, Gregerson, Doglio, Stambaugh, Ormsby, Manweller, Dent, Stonier, Steele, Walsh, Goodman, Bergquist and Pollet.

House Committee on Labor & Workplace Standards
Senate Committee on Commerce, Labor & Sports
Senate Committee on Labor & Commerce

Background:

State law requires that contractors pay prevailing wages to laborers, workers, and mechanics employed on all public works contracts and public building service maintenance contracts. The prevailing wage is the hourly wage, usual benefits, and overtime paid in the largest city in each county to the majority of individuals in the same trade or occupation. The prevailing wage for each county and occupation is established by the industrial statistician for the Department of Labor and Industries (Department).

The industrial statistician is authorized to issue determinations regarding the prevailing wage in response to requests by interested parties. These determinations may be sought to clarify how prevailing wage law applies to a specific project. For example, determinations may examine whether the prevailing wage is owed for work on a project or the appropriate scope of work governing the wage of a given group of workers.

If an employer fails to pay a worker wages owed, the worker may file a wage complaint with the Department. The Department must investigate and if a violation is found, may order the employer to pay back-pay and interest. The Department applies a three-year statute of limitations and looks back three years for wages owed. Workers may also file a private right of action for unpaid prevailing wages.

Summary:

The time period to recover wages affected by a prevailing wage determination is tolled until the determination is final.

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

Votes on Final Passage:

House	96	0
House	98	0
Senate	38	11

Effective: June 7, 2018