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SENATE BILL 5836

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State of Washington

65th Legislature

2017 Regular Session

By Senators Fain, Cleveland, Baumgartner, Keiser, Braun, Hasegawa, Conway, Hunt, and Saldaña

Read first time 02/16/17. Referred to Committee on Commerce, Labor & Sports.

1 AN ACT Relating to enhancing enforcement of the equal pay act;  
2 and creating a new section.

3 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF WASHINGTON:

4 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** INTENT. The legislature intends to update  
5 the existing Washington state equal pay act, which has not been  
6 modified since 1943, but should reflect the equal status of all  
7 workers in Washington state. The legislature finds that in order to  
8 establish equality among workers, men and women in the same job must  
9 be compensated as equals. Further, although not currently allowed  
10 under federal law, some employers institute various policies to  
11 discourage employees from discussing their wages. The legislature  
12 intends to ensure that employees have the opportunity to exercise  
13 their rights in this area.

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