
HOUSE BILL 1901

State of Washington

68th Legislature

2024 Regular Session

By Representatives Springer, Schmidt, Berry, Ormsby, and Reeves; by request of Employment Security Department

Prefiled 12/06/23. Read first time 01/08/24. Referred to Committee on Labor & Workplace Standards.

1 AN ACT Relating to removing the sunset on changes to the
2 unemployment insurance voluntary contribution program; and amending
3 RCW 50.29.026.

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

5 **Sec. 1.** RCW 50.29.026 and 2021 c 2 s 18 are each amended to read
6 as follows:

7 (1) (~~Except as provided in subsection (3) of this section, a~~) A
8 qualified employer's contribution rate or array calculation factor
9 rate determined under RCW 50.29.025 may be modified as follows:

10 (a) Subject to the limitations of this subsection, an employer
11 may make a voluntary contribution of an amount equal to part or all
12 of the benefits charged to the employer's account during the two
13 years most recently ended on June 30th that were used for the purpose
14 of computing the employer's contribution rate or array calculation
15 factor rate. On receiving timely payment of a voluntary contribution,
16 (~~plus a surcharge of ten percent of the amount of the voluntary~~
17 ~~contribution,~~) the commissioner shall cancel the benefits equal to
18 the amount of the voluntary contribution(~~, excluding the~~
19 ~~surcharge,~~) and compute a new benefit ratio for the employer. The
20 employer shall then be assigned the contribution rate (~~applicable~~
21 ~~for rate years beginning before January 1, 2005,~~) or array

1 calculation factor rate applicable for rate years beginning on or
2 after January 1, 2005, applicable to the rate class within which the
3 recomputed benefit ratio is included. The minimum amount of a
4 voluntary contribution(~~(, excluding the surcharge,)~~) must be an
5 amount that will result in a recomputed benefit ratio that is in a
6 rate class at least (~~four~~) two rate classes lower than the rate
7 class that included the employer's original benefit ratio.

8 (b) Payment of a voluntary contribution is considered timely if
9 received by the department during the period beginning on the date of
10 mailing to the employer the notice of contribution rate required
11 under this title for the rate year for which the employer is seeking
12 a modification of the employer's rate and ending on (~~February 15th~~)
13 March 31st of that rate year.

14 (c) A benefit ratio may not be recomputed nor a rate be reduced
15 under this section as a result of a voluntary contribution received
16 after the payment period prescribed in (b) of this subsection.

17 (~~Except as provided in subsection (3) of this section,~~
18 ~~this~~) This section does not apply to any employer who has not had an
19 increase of at least (~~twelve~~) eight rate classes from the previous
20 tax rate year.

21 (~~(3) From February 8, 2021, and until May 31, 2026, the~~
22 ~~following applies:~~

23 ~~(a) The surcharge in subsection (1)(a) of this section will not~~
24 ~~be charged or used in the calculations;~~

25 ~~(b) The ending payment date in subsection (1)(b) of this section~~
26 ~~is March 31st;~~

27 ~~(c) The minimum amount of a voluntary contribution must be an~~
28 ~~amount that will result in a recomputed benefit ratio that is in a~~
29 ~~rate class at least two rate classes lower than the rate class that~~
30 ~~included the employer's original benefit ratio; and~~

31 ~~(d) This section does not apply to any employer who has not had~~
32 ~~an increase of at least eight rate classes from the previous tax rate~~
33 ~~year.))~~

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