
**Labor & Workplace Standards
Committee**

HB 1173

Brief Description: Concerning wages for journeypersons in high-hazard facilities.

Sponsors: Representatives Bronoske, Berry, Reed, Ramel, Obras, Fosse, Simmons, Ortiz-Self, Goodman, Gregerson, Pollet, Nance, Ormsby, Lekanoff and Hill.

Brief Summary of Bill

- Requires certain building and construction workers at petroleum refining and petrochemical manufacturing facilities to be paid at least the prevailing wage.

Hearing Date: 1/15/25

Staff: Kelly Leonard (786-7147).

Background:

Workers at High Hazard Facilities.

Owners and operators of petroleum refineries and petrochemical manufacturing facilities must ensure contractors and subcontractors use "a skilled and trained workforce" for performing any construction, alteration, installation, repair, or maintenance, if that work is in an occupation for which an apprenticeship program has been approved by the Washington State Apprenticeship Training Council (WSATC). A "skilled and trained workforce" means all the workers are either registered apprentices or skilled journeypersons meeting certain requirements.

At least 60 percent of the skilled journeypersons must be graduates of an apprenticeship program approved by the WSATC. The remaining skilled journeypersons need not have completed an apprenticeship program, so long as they have comparable on-the-job experience that would be

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required to graduate from an apprenticeship program. Skilled journeypersons must be paid at least a rate commensurate with the wages typically paid for the occupation in the applicable geographic area, which may not be less than an hourly rate consistent with the seventy-fifth percentile in the applicable occupation and geographic area in the most recent occupational employment statistics published by the Employment Security Department. While a contractor may use the prevailing wage as a basis for determining wages, they are not required to do so.

Prevailing Wage.

The Washington State Prevailing Wages on Public Works Act, also known as the "Prevailing Wage Law," requires building and construction workers to be paid prevailing wages when employed on public works projects. Public works projects generally include any construction, alteration, repair, or improvement (other than ordinary maintenance) executed at the cost of the state or of any municipality.

The prevailing wage is established by the industrial statistician at the Department of Labor and Industries. It is calculated based on the hourly wage, usual benefits, and overtime paid in the largest city in each county, to the majority of workers, laborers, or mechanics in the same trade or occupation.

Summary of Bill:

A skilled journeyperson in a building or construction trade working for a petroleum refining or petrochemical manufacturing contractor or subcontractor must be paid at least a rate consistent with the prevailing wage in the applicable occupation and geographic area.

Appropriation: None.

Fiscal Note: Available.

Effective Date: The bill takes effect on January 1, 2026.