

HOUSE BILL REPORT

HB 1182

As Reported by House Committee On:
Labor & Workplace Standards

Title: An act relating to granting interest arbitration to certain parks and recreation commission employees.

Brief Description: Granting interest arbitration to certain parks and recreation commission employees.

Sponsors: Representatives Paul, Ybarra, Berry, Leavitt, Stearns, Shavers, Doglio, Bronoske, Fosse, Simmons, Rule, Ormsby, Bernbaum and Hill.

Brief History:

Committee Activity:

Labor & Workplace Standards: 1/21/25, 1/31/25 [DPS].

Brief Summary of Substitute Bill

- Grants interest arbitration to Parks and Recreation employees covered under civil service laws.

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON LABOR & WORKPLACE STANDARDS

Majority Report: The substitute bill be substituted therefor and the substitute bill do pass. Signed by 9 members: Representatives Berry, Chair; Fosse, Vice Chair; Scott, Vice Chair; Schmidt, Ranking Minority Member; Ybarra, Assistant Ranking Minority Member; Bronoske, McEntire, Obras and Ortiz-Self.

Staff: Benjamin McCarthy (786-7116).

Background:

The Personnel System Reform Act (PSRA) provides state employees the right to

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collectively bargain over wages, hours, and other terms and conditions of employment. The Governor or the Governor's designee represents the employer in collective bargaining negotiations.

The PSRA grants certain state employees interest arbitration. Interest arbitration requires the parties to attempt to resolve disputes over mandatory subjects of bargaining through mediation. If mediation is unsuccessful, the Director of the Public Employment Relations Commission will certify unresolved disputes for an arbiter to consider. The arbiter's decision is binding on the parties and can only be appealed if it is arbitrary and capricious. However, interest arbitration decisions are not binding on the Legislature. If the Legislature does not approve the funds necessary to implement an interest arbitration award, the award is not binding on the state or the employing agency.

Parks and Recreation Commission.

The Parks and Recreation Commission (Commission) controls and supervises more than 140 state parks throughout Washington. The Commission employs park planners, park rangers, and others.

Summary of Substitute Bill:

Parks and Recreation Commission employees, except for confidential employees and internal auditors, are granted interest arbitration rights.

Substitute Bill Compared to Original Bill:

The substitute bill restores the exclusion from interest arbitration for Washington Management Service employees at the Department of Corrections.

Appropriation: None.

Fiscal Note: Available.

Effective Date of Substitute Bill: The bill takes effect 90 days after adjournment of the session in which the bill is passed.

Staff Summary of Public Testimony:

(In support) Park rangers receive certification that is required for law enforcement, but the salary does not compete with other law enforcement agencies. This makes it hard to maintain staffing levels. Recruiting new rangers is difficult because of low pay. Once a ranger is trained, it is easy for them to move to a different, better paying, law enforcement

agency. Park rangers are law enforcement, they respond to and take command of law enforcement incidents. Their work can be dangerous. Giving park rangers interest arbitration would give them equality with other law enforcement agencies and help them address staffing issues.

(Opposed) None.

Persons Testifying: Representative Dave Paul, prime sponsor; Miles Carignan, Vice President - Parks Local 1466, Council 28, Washington Federation of State Employees; Lucas Marin; Jason Bearden, Ranger Representative for Parks Local 1466, Washington Federation of State Employees; and Andrew Kallinen, Washington Federation of State Employees.

Persons Signed In To Testify But Not Testifying: None.