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## Labor & Workplace Standards Committee

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### HB 1739

**Brief Description:** Regulating the use of self-service checkout stations.

**Sponsors:** Representatives Fosse, Thomas, Simmons, Obras, Reed, Ormsby, Parshley, Hill, Pollet and Ramel.

<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Brief Summary of Bill</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Requires grocery stores to fulfill certain conditions before offering self-service checkouts.</li></ul>
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**Hearing Date:** 2/12/25

**Staff:** Benjamin McCarthy (786-7116).

**Background:**

Washington regulates grocery store staffing in several ways, but generally leaves decisions about staffing levels to the grocery store. An example of a regulation of grocery store staffing is that when a grocery store changes ownership, it must retain certain grocery workers for a 180-day transition period. For this regulation, grocery stores are defined as retail stores over 15,000 square feet that primarily sell foodstuffs for off-site consumption.

Further, all grocery stores must have at least one staff member who is a certified food protection manager and all employees who work with unpackaged food must have a food and beverage service worker's card.

**Summary of Bill:**

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

Before providing a self-service checkout, grocery stores, defined as retail stores over 15,000 square feet that primarily sell foodstuffs for off-site consumption, must fulfill the following conditions:

- at least one manual checkout station is operating at any time a self-service checkout is open;
- self-service checkouts are for customers with 15 items or less, and there is signage near the self-service checkout indicating this limit; and
- an employee who is monitoring self-service checkout is relieved of all other duties and is required to monitor no more than two self-service checkout stations simultaneously.

An employer who offers self-service checkout must include self-service checkout in its analysis of potential work hazards for accident prevention programs.

Discount warehouse or retail stores where more than half of the items carried are sold in large quantities or in bulk and where the store requires customers to pay a membership or assessment fee are exempt from these conditions.

Enforcement.

The Department of Labor and Industries must investigate and enforce employee complaints. An employer that operates a self-service checkout without meeting these conditions is subject to a civil penalty of \$100 a day not to exceed an aggregate penalty of \$10,000. The Attorney General's Office may also institute an action for violation of these conditions, including for injunctive relief.

**Appropriation:** None.

**Fiscal Note:** Requested on February 6, 2025.

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