

# SENATE BILL REPORT

## SB 5209

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As Reported by Senate Committee On:  
Law & Justice, January 23, 2025

**Title:** An act relating to explicitly listing the department of labor and industries in the definition of limited authority Washington law enforcement agency while not granting new enforcement authority.

**Brief Description:** Explicitly listing the department of labor and industries in the definition of limited authority Washington law enforcement agency while not granting new enforcement authority.

**Sponsors:** Senators Lovick, Holy, Conway, Dhingra and Nobles; by request of Department of Labor & Industries.

**Brief History:**

**Committee Activity:** Law & Justice: 1/21/25, 1/23/25 [DP].

**Brief Summary of Bill**

- Adds the Department of Labor and Industry to the statutory list of limited liability law enforcement agencies.

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### SENATE COMMITTEE ON LAW & JUSTICE

**Majority Report:** Do pass.

Signed by Senators Dhingra, Chair; Trudeau, Vice Chair; Holy, Ranking Member; Fortunato, Lovick, Salomon, Torres, Valdez and Wagoner.

**Staff:** Joe McKittrick (786-7287)

**Background:** A limited authority law enforcement agency is any agency, political subdivision, or unit of local government of Washington, and any agency, department, or division of state government, having as one of its functions the apprehension or detection of

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persons committing infractions or violating the traffic or criminal laws relating to limited subject areas. Examples of limited authority law enforcement agencies include the Department of Natural Resources, the Gambling Commission, and the Utilities and Transportation Commission.

The Department of Labor and Industries is tasked, in part, with exercising all powers and performing all duties prescribed by law in relation to:

- the inspection of factories, mills, workshops, storehouses, warerooms, stores and buildings, and the machinery and apparatus therein, and steam vessels, and other vessels operated by machinery;
- the administration and enforcement of all laws and safety standards providing for the protection of employees in mills, factories, workshops, and in employment subject to the provisions of the Industrial Insurance Act;
- the enforcement, inspection, certification, and promulgation of safe places and safety device standards in all industries, excluding railroads;
- the inspection of tracks, bridges, structures, machinery, equipment, and apparatus of street railways, gas plants, electrical plants, water systems, telephone lines, telegraph lines, and other public utilities; and
- the enforcement, amendment, alteration, change, and making additions to, rules and regulations concerning the operation, placing, erection, maintenance, and use of electrical apparatus, and the construction thereof.

**Summary of Bill:** The Department of Labor and Industries is added to the non-exhaustive list of agencies classified as limited authority law enforcement agencies.

**Appropriation:** None.

**Fiscal Note:** Not requested.

**Creates Committee/Commission/Task Force that includes Legislative members:** No.

**Effective Date:** Ninety days after adjournment of session in which bill is passed.

**Staff Summary of Public Testimony:** PRO: This bill simply clarifies that the Department of Labor and Industries (department) is a limited authority law enforcement agency and does not grant the department any authority it does not already have. This will ensure the department is not denied access to needed information within the investigative scope of the department. This will protect department staff across the state who work with local law enforcement and prosecutors conducting investigations of industrial insurance benefit fraud.

**Persons Testifying:** PRO: Senator John Lovick, Prime Sponsor; Tammy Fellin, Department of Labor & Industries; Lawrence Grant, Department of Labor & Industries.

**Persons Signed In To Testify But Not Testifying:** No one.