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**SENATE BILL 5653**

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**State of Washington                      69th Legislature                      2025 Regular Session**

**By** Senators Chapman, Hasegawa, MacEwen, and Nobles

Read first time 02/04/25. Referred to Committee on Labor & Commerce.

1            AN ACT Relating to collective bargaining by fish and wildlife  
2 officers; and amending RCW 41.56.030.

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

4            **Sec. 1.** RCW 41.56.030 and 2024 c 124 s 1 are each amended to  
5 read as follows:

6            As used in this chapter:

7            (1) "Adult family home provider" means a provider as defined in  
8 RCW 70.128.010 who receives payments from the medicaid and state-  
9 funded long-term care programs.

10           (2) "Bargaining representative" means any lawful organization  
11 which has as one of its primary purposes the representation of  
12 employees in their employment relations with employers.

13           (3) "Child care subsidy" means a payment from the state through a  
14 child care subsidy program established pursuant to RCW 74.12.340, 45  
15 C.F.R. Sec. 98.1 through 98.17, or any successor program.

16           (4) "Collective bargaining" means the performance of the mutual  
17 obligations of the public employer and the exclusive bargaining  
18 representative to meet at reasonable times, to confer and negotiate  
19 in good faith, and to execute a written agreement with respect to  
20 grievance procedures, subject to RCW 41.58.070, and collective  
21 negotiations on personnel matters, including wages, hours, and

1 working conditions, which may be peculiar to an appropriate  
2 bargaining unit of such public employer, except that by such  
3 obligation neither party shall be compelled to agree to a proposal or  
4 be required to make a concession unless otherwise provided in this  
5 chapter.

6 (5) "Commission" means the public employment relations  
7 commission.

8 (6) "Executive director" means the executive director of the  
9 commission.

10 (7) "Family child care provider" means a person who: (a) Provides  
11 regularly scheduled care for a child or children in the home of the  
12 provider or in the home of the child or children for periods of less  
13 than twenty-four hours or, if necessary due to the nature of the  
14 parent's work, for periods equal to or greater than twenty-four  
15 hours; (b) receives child care subsidies; and (c) under chapter  
16 43.216 RCW, is either licensed by the state or is exempt from  
17 licensing.

18 (8) "Fish and wildlife officer" means a fish and wildlife officer  
19 as defined in RCW 77.08.010 who ranks below (~~lieutenant~~) deputy  
20 chief and includes officers, detectives, (~~and~~) sergeants,  
21 lieutenants, and captains of the department of fish and wildlife.

22 (9) "Individual provider" means an individual provider as defined  
23 in RCW 74.39A.240(3) who, solely for the purposes of collective  
24 bargaining, is a public employee as provided in RCW 74.39A.270.

25 (10) "Institution of higher education" means the University of  
26 Washington, Washington State University, Central Washington  
27 University, Eastern Washington University, Western Washington  
28 University, The Evergreen State College, and the various state  
29 community colleges.

30 (11)(a) "Language access provider" means any independent  
31 contractor who provides spoken language interpreter services, whether  
32 paid by a broker, language access agency, or the respective  
33 department:

34 (i) For department of social and health services appointments,  
35 department of children, youth, and families appointments, medicaid  
36 enrollee appointments, or who provided these services on or after  
37 January 1, 2011, and before June 10, 2012;

38 (ii) For department of labor and industries authorized medical  
39 and vocational providers who provided these services on or after  
40 January 1, 2019; or

1 (iii) For state agencies who provided these services on or after  
2 January 1, 2019.

3 (b) "Language access provider" does not mean a manager or  
4 employee of a broker or a language access agency.

5 (12) "Public employee" means any employee of a public employer  
6 except any person (a) elected by popular vote, or (b) appointed to  
7 office pursuant to statute, ordinance or resolution for a specified  
8 term of office as a member of a multimember board, commission, or  
9 committee, whether appointed by the executive head or body of the  
10 public employer, or (c) whose duties as deputy, administrative  
11 assistant or secretary necessarily imply a confidential relationship  
12 to (i) the executive head or body of the applicable bargaining unit,  
13 or (ii) any person elected by popular vote, or (iii) any person  
14 appointed to office pursuant to statute, ordinance or resolution for  
15 a specified term of office as a member of a multimember board,  
16 commission, or committee, whether appointed by the executive head or  
17 body of the public employer, or (d) who is a court commissioner or a  
18 court magistrate of superior court, district court, or a department  
19 of a district court organized under chapter 3.46 RCW, or (e) who is a  
20 personal assistant to a district court judge, superior court judge,  
21 or court commissioner. For the purpose of (e) of this subsection, no  
22 more than one assistant for each judge or commissioner may be  
23 excluded from a bargaining unit.

24 (13) "Public employer" means any officer, board, commission,  
25 council, or other person or body acting on behalf of any public body  
26 governed by this chapter, or any subdivision of such public body. For  
27 the purposes of this section, the public employer of district court  
28 or superior court employees for wage-related matters is the  
29 respective county legislative authority, or person or body acting on  
30 behalf of the legislative authority, and the public employer for  
31 nonwage-related matters is the judge or judge's designee of the  
32 respective district court or superior court. For the purposes of this  
33 chapter, public employer does not include a comprehensive cancer  
34 center participating in a collaborative arrangement as defined in RCW  
35 28B.10.930 that is operated in conformance with RCW 28B.10.930.

36 (14) "Uniformed personnel" means: (a) Law enforcement officers as  
37 defined in RCW 41.26.030 employed by the governing body of any city  
38 or town with a population of two thousand five hundred or more and  
39 law enforcement officers employed by the governing body of any county  
40 with a population of ten thousand or more; (b) correctional employees

1 who are uniformed and nonuniformed, commissioned and noncommissioned  
2 security personnel employed in a jail as defined in RCW 70.48.020(9),  
3 by a county with a population of seventy thousand or more, in a  
4 correctional facility created under RCW 70.48.095, or in a detention  
5 facility created under chapter 13.40 RCW that is located in a county  
6 with a population over one million five hundred thousand, and who are  
7 trained for and charged with the responsibility of controlling and  
8 maintaining custody of inmates in the jail and safeguarding inmates  
9 from other inmates; (c) general authority Washington peace officers  
10 as defined in RCW 10.93.020 employed by a port district in a county  
11 with a population of one million or more; (d) security forces  
12 established under RCW 43.52.520; (e) firefighters as that term is  
13 defined in RCW 41.26.030; (f) employees of a port district in a  
14 county with a population of one million or more whose duties include  
15 crash fire rescue or other firefighting duties; (g) employees of fire  
16 departments of public employers who dispatch exclusively either fire  
17 or emergency medical services, or both; (h) employees in the several  
18 classes of advanced life support technicians, as defined in RCW  
19 18.71.200, who are employed by a public employer; (i) court marshals  
20 of any county who are employed by, trained for, and commissioned by  
21 the county sheriff and charged with the responsibility of enforcing  
22 laws, protecting and maintaining security in all county-owned or  
23 contracted property, and performing any other duties assigned to them  
24 by the county sheriff or mandated by judicial order; or (j) public  
25 safety telecommunicators, as defined in RCW 38.60.020, employed by a  
26 public employer. This subsection (14)(j) does not apply to public  
27 safety telecommunicators employed by the Washington state patrol or  
28 any other state agency.

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