

Joint Committee on Ways and Means

Carrier – House: Rep. Jenson
Carrier – Senate: Sen. Johnson

Revenue: No revenue impact

Fiscal: Fiscal statement issued

Action: Do Pass as Amended and Be Printed A-Engrossed

Vote: 15 – 6 – 0

House – Yeas: D. Edwards, Galizio, Jenson, Nathanson, Nolan, Shields
– Nays: Garrard, Hanna, Morgan
– Exc:

Senate – Yeas: Bates, Carter, Devlin, Gordly, Johnson, Nelson, Schrader, Verger, Westlund
– Nays:
– Exc: Morse, Whitsett, Winters

Prepared By: Michelle Deister, Legislative Fiscal Office

Meeting Date: 4/27/07

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

Increases the fee from \$100 to \$250 to file an answer with the Employment Relations Board in regards to unfair labor practice proceedings under public employees collective bargaining law. Establishes a fee of \$250 to file charges or an answer with the Board in other unfair labor practice proceedings, and to intervene in unfair labor practice proceedings. Creates the Employment Relations Board Administrative Account to deposit fees, and establishes the account to be used for payment of Board incurred expenses. Enables the Employment Relations Board to retain interest earned on the account. Declares an emergency, effective on passage.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- The policy behind the recommendation to amend the bill to ensure that interest on the new account continues to be credited to the General Fund.
- The policy behind equalizing the answer filing fee.
- Why there is no provision for cost recovery by the prevailing party in ERB decisions.

EFFECT OF COMMITTEE AMENDMENT: Removes the provision of the bill that would enable the Board to retain interest earned on the new Employment Relations Board Administrative Account. Instead, these interest earnings (assumed at \$20,000 per biennium) would be credited to the General Fund ensuring the state's continued ability to use these dollars for short term borrowing.

BACKGROUND: The Joint Committee on Ways and Means assumed the fee increases in HB 2070 when approving the budget for the Employment Relations Board (SB 5511). The recommendation does not include interest earnings retention by the Employment Relations Board.