

Joint Committee on Ways and Means

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

Revenue: No revenue impact

Fiscal: Fiscal statement issued

Action: Do Pass

Vote: 16 – 5 – 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, Winters
– Nays: Morse, Whitsett
– Exc:

Prepared By: Michelle Deister, Legislative Fiscal Office

Meeting Date: 4/27/07

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES: Requires a \$50 application fee and a \$100 annual fee to be included on the list of qualified arbitrators maintained by the Employment Relations Board.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- The Governor’s recommended budget includes a policy option package related to the fees this bill would institute.
- Fees are not currently charged to arbitrators who apply or are maintained on the Board’s list of qualified arbitrators.
- Other states that charge fees include Minnesota and New Jersey. Private and federal managers of arbitrator panels also charge fees.
- This fee is intended to recover part of the cost to the Board of maintaining the list.

EFFECT OF COMMITTEE AMENDMENT: No amendment.

BACKGROUND: The Employment Relations Board maintains a list of qualified arbitrators who can be selected by parties who have employment disputes. The Board checks references and qualifications, processes applications and responds to complaints about arbitrators. Parties are presented a list of arbitrators, and the parties come to an agreement on which arbitrator to hire. There are approximately 58 arbitrators on the current list.