

SB 901 A STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

Carrier: Sen. Roblan

Senate Committee On Rules

Action Date: 04/05/17
Action: Do pass with amendments. (Printed A-Eng.)
Vote: 5-0-0-0
Yeas: 5 - Beyer, Boquist, Burdick, Ferrioli, Roblan
Fiscal: Has minimal fiscal impact
Revenue: Has minimal revenue impact
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WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

Exempts amateur athletes from certain specified employment regulations related to coverage, wage rate, payment, collection and claim enforcement, employment conditions, employment of minors and unemployment insurance.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Commitment and expenses necessary for development of elite athletes
- Western Hockey League contributions and benefits offered to employees
- Alignment with federal Unemployment Tax Act

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

Recasts current proposed exemption language with regard to unemployment insurance provisions to exclude amateur athletes who perform services as such for governmental entities, 501(c)(3) non-profit organizations, or Native American tribes.

BACKGROUND:

Current statute provides exemptions from specified requirements related to coverage, wage rate, payment, collection and claim enforcement, employment conditions, employment of minors and unemployment insurance for individuals who have been declared an amateur athlete by the United States Olympic Committee (USOC) or Canadian Olympic Committee (COC).

Senate Bill 901-A expands the current employment related exemptions provided for individuals who have been declared an amateur athlete under the USOC or COC to additionally include individuals declared to be, or registered as, an amateur athlete by an equivalent national body governing amateur sport or its state affiliate with authority to govern and sanction amateur sport competition. Further, the measure recasts the definition of employee with regard to the enforcement of wage claims, employee rights of action, minimum wage, employment of minors, employment conditions and unemployment insurance to clarify that the exemption for individuals meeting the definition of amateur athlete is applicable when the individual is performing services as an amateur athlete.