

Joint Committee on Ways and Means

Carrier – House: Rep. Nathanson
Carrier – Senate: Sen. Winters

Revenue: No revenue impact

Fiscal: Fiscal statement issued

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

Vote: 16 – 4 – 2

House

Yeas: Buckley, D. Edwards, Galizio, Jenson, Komp, Kotek, Nathanson, Shields, G. Smith

Nays: Garrard, Gilman, Richardson

Exc: Kotek

Senate

Yeas: Carter, Girod, Johnson, Monroe, Nelson, Verger, Walker, Winters

Nays: Whitsett

Exc: Bates

Prepared By: Michelle Deister, Legislative Fiscal Office

Meeting Date: May 29, 2009

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES: Ratifies fees increased by the Employment Relations Board via administrative rule during the 2007-09 biennium.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- The merits of regular updates or indexing of fees rather than steep increases after a prolonged period of static fees
- Whether fees for subscriptions and facilitation training fully cover costs

EFFECT OF COMMITTEE AMENDMENT: Corrects drafting errors in the bill to ensure consistency with the budget recommendation for the Employment Relations Board.

BACKGROUND: The increase in the fee for facilitation and training services provided by ERB mediators was last increased in 1995. This is an optional fee-for-service that ERB provides if time and caseload duties permit. The fee fully covers the hourly cost of providing the training.

Fees for “certified true copies” of transcripts and other documents were last increased in 1994; fees for other documents (recordings of hearings, subscription for copies of board orders) were last increased in 1996; the fee increases reflect the conversion from analog tape to digital CD, and the move from a per page charge for board orders to a subscription service. The fee for any document filed via facsimile was last increased in 2000, and is being increased to cover the cost of the service.

The Legislative Fiscal Office recommendation on HB 5011 – the budget bill for the Employment Relations Board – assumes ratification of these fee increases.