

HB 3193 -1 STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

House Committee On Business and Labor

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Meeting Dates: 3/27, 4/1

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

Raises cap on claims paid out of Wage Security Fund to \$10,000 for unpaid wages and compensation. Allows Wage Security Fund to support Bureau of Labor and Industries' (BOLI) investigation and enforcement of unpaid wage and compensation, including fringe benefits. Requires BOLI to include in order of determination a statement that failure to pay amount owed to wage claimant within ten days will result in BOLI notifying Construction Contractors Board (CCB) and the suspension of license by CCB until amount due is paid.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

-1 Replaces original measure. Requires Bureau of Labor and Industries to notify Construction Contractors Board (CCB) in the following situations: when contractor subject to licensing has a valid wage claim filed against them, when final order of determination is issued, and when contractor fails to pay construction debt within 60 days. Establishes disciplinary actions CCB may take when notified of final order by BOLI. Provides that business owner subject to CCB licensing remains responsible for penalties or bond requirements when business ceases. Requires BOLI to include in order of determination a statement that failure to pay amount owed to wage claimant within 60 days will result in BOLI notifying CCB and the suspension of license by CCB until amount due is paid. Raises cap on amount that wage claimant can receive from Wage Security Fund to \$10,000. Allows person owed wages or benefits from contractor to recover payment from contractor's bond or by obtaining final order issued by BOLI. Allows nonowner (e.g., laborer) to access more than \$3,000 of residential contractor's bond in specified situations.

BACKGROUND:

The Bureau of Labor and Industries received approximately 1,200 employee wage claims in 2017, of which, a disproportionately large share involved the construction industry. Contractors licensed by the Construction Contractors Board must maintain a bond which can be accessed by employees with a claim of unpaid wages. Wage claimants can access the Wage Security Fund if the business that owes the wages has ceased business and lacks sufficient assets to pay the claim. No more than \$4,000 per claimant may be paid from the Fund.

Stakeholders met throughout the 2018 interim to develop the policies contained in House Bill 3193 to ensure that workers in the construction industry are paid what they have earned.