
SENATE BILL 5545

State of Washington

65th Legislature

2017 Regular Session

By Senators Wilson, Braun, and Rossi

1 AN ACT Relating to requiring public employee collective
2 bargaining sessions to be open meetings; amending RCW 42.30.140;
3 adding a new section to chapter 42.30 RCW; adding a new section to
4 chapter 41.56 RCW; adding a new section to chapter 28B.52 RCW; adding
5 a new section to chapter 41.59 RCW; adding a new section to chapter
6 41.76 RCW; adding a new section to chapter 41.80 RCW; adding a new
7 section to chapter 47.64 RCW; and adding a new section to chapter
8 49.39 RCW.

9 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF WASHINGTON:

10 **Sec. 1.** RCW 42.30.140 and 1990 c 98 s 1 are each amended to read
11 as follows:

12 If any provision of this chapter conflicts with the provisions of
13 any other statute, the provisions of this chapter shall control:
14 PROVIDED, That this chapter shall not apply to:

15 (1) The proceedings concerned with the formal issuance of an
16 order granting, suspending, revoking, or denying any license, permit,
17 or certificate to engage in any business, occupation, or profession
18 or to any disciplinary proceedings involving a member of such
19 business, occupation, or profession, or to receive a license for a
20 sports activity or to operate any mechanical device or motor vehicle
21 where a license or registration is necessary; or

1 (2) That portion of a meeting of a quasi-judicial body which
2 relates to a quasi-judicial matter between named parties as
3 distinguished from a matter having general effect on the public or on
4 a class or group; or

5 (3) Matters governed by chapter 34.05 RCW, the Administrative
6 Procedure Act; or

7 (4)(a) Collective bargaining sessions with employee
8 organizations, including (~~contract negotiations,~~) grievance
9 meetings(~~(,)~~) and discussions relating to the interpretation or
10 application of a labor agreement; or (b) that portion of a meeting
11 during which the governing body is planning or adopting the strategy
12 or position to be taken by the governing body during the course of
13 any collective bargaining, professional negotiations, or grievance or
14 mediation proceedings, or reviewing the proposals made in the
15 negotiations or proceedings while in progress.

16 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** A new section is added to chapter 42.30
17 RCW to read as follows:

18 (1) Collective bargaining sessions with employee organizations
19 involving contract negotiations must be open to the public.

20 (2) This section does not require a public employer to permit
21 public comment opportunities during collective bargaining
22 negotiations. Public employers may choose to video tape collective
23 bargaining negotiations instead of permitting firsthand observation
24 of negotiations by the public, provided videos of the negotiations
25 are made available online within twenty-four hours.

26 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 3.** A new section is added to chapter 41.56
27 RCW to read as follows:

28 (1) Collective bargaining sessions between bargaining
29 representatives and public employers, or their representatives,
30 involving contract negotiations under this chapter must be open to
31 the public.

32 (2) This section does not require a public employer to permit
33 public comment opportunities during collective bargaining
34 negotiations. Public employers may choose to video tape collective
35 bargaining negotiations instead of permitting firsthand observation
36 of negotiations by the public, provided videos of the negotiations
37 are made available online within twenty-four hours.

1 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 4.** A new section is added to chapter 28B.52
2 RCW to read as follows:

3 (1) Collective bargaining sessions between employee
4 organizations, or their representatives, and public employers, or
5 their representatives, involving contract negotiations under this
6 chapter must be open to the public.

7 (2) This section does not require a public employer to permit
8 public comment opportunities during collective bargaining
9 negotiations. Public employers may choose to video tape collective
10 bargaining negotiations instead of permitting firsthand observation
11 of negotiations by the public, provided videos of the negotiations
12 are made available online within twenty-four hours.

13 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 5.** A new section is added to chapter 41.59
14 RCW to read as follows:

15 (1) Collective bargaining sessions between employee
16 organizations, or their representatives, and public employers, or
17 their representatives, involving contract negotiations under this
18 chapter must be open to the public.

19 (2) This section does not require a public employer to permit
20 public comment opportunities during collective bargaining
21 negotiations. Public employers may choose to video tape collective
22 bargaining negotiations instead of permitting firsthand observation
23 of negotiations by the public, provided videos of the negotiations
24 are made available online within twenty-four hours.

25 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 6.** A new section is added to chapter 41.76
26 RCW to read as follows:

27 (1) Collective bargaining sessions between employee
28 organizations, or their representatives, and public employers, or
29 their representatives, involving contract negotiations under this
30 chapter must be open to the public.

31 (2) This section does not require a public employer to permit
32 public comment opportunities during collective bargaining
33 negotiations. Public employers may choose to video tape collective
34 bargaining negotiations instead of permitting firsthand observation
35 of negotiations by the public, provided videos of the negotiations
36 are made available online within twenty-four hours.

1 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 7.** A new section is added to chapter 41.80
2 RCW to read as follows:

3 (1) Collective bargaining sessions between employee
4 organizations, or their representatives, and public employers, or
5 their representatives, involving contract negotiations under this
6 chapter must be open to the public.

7 (2) This section does not require a public employer to permit
8 public comment opportunities during collective bargaining
9 negotiations. Public employers may choose to video tape collective
10 bargaining negotiations instead of permitting firsthand observation
11 of negotiations by the public, provided videos of the negotiations
12 are made available online within twenty-four hours.

13 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 8.** A new section is added to chapter 47.64
14 RCW to read as follows:

15 (1) Collective bargaining sessions between ferry employee
16 organizations, or their representatives, and public employers, or
17 their representatives, involving contract negotiations under this
18 chapter must be open to the public.

19 (2) This section does not require a public employer to permit
20 public comment opportunities during collective bargaining
21 negotiations. Public employers may choose to video tape collective
22 bargaining negotiations instead of permitting firsthand observation
23 of negotiations by the public, provided videos of the negotiations
24 are made available online within twenty-four hours.

25 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 9.** A new section is added to chapter 49.39
26 RCW to read as follows:

27 (1) Collective bargaining sessions between bargaining
28 representatives and public employers, or their representatives,
29 involving contract negotiations under this chapter must be open to
30 the public.

31 (2) This section does not require a public employer to permit
32 public comment opportunities during collective bargaining
33 negotiations. Public employers may choose to video tape collective
34 bargaining negotiations instead of permitting firsthand observation
35 of negotiations by the public, provided videos of the negotiations
36 are made available online within twenty-four hours.

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