

Meeting details

Date: Wednesday, February 19th, 2025

Time: 2:00 pm – 3:00 pm

Location: Zoom

Committee members and alternates present

Employee Representatives

- Brenda Wiest, Teamsters 117
- Cindy Richardson, UNITE HERE Local 8

Employer Representatives

- Katie Beeson, Washington Food Industry Association (alternate)
- Josie Cummings, Avista
- Julia Gorton, Washington Hospitality Association
- Lindsey Hueer, Association of Washington Businesses

General Public Representatives

- Anne Paxton, Unemployment Law Project
- John Glynn, Washington Workforce Association

ESD staff

- Chris Barron
- Joshua Dye
- Shellie Dunning
- Vaughn Ellis
- Stephanie Frazee
- Gerald Gabbard
- Camille Galeno
- Colin Helsley
- Kennidi Hunsicker
- Reese Hutchison

Committee members and alternates absent

- Monica Holland, Northwest Justice Project (alternate public rep)
- Sybill Hyppolite, Washington State Labor Council
- Joe Kendo, WA State Labor Council (alt employee rep)
- Allyson O'Malley-Jones, Northwest Justice Project
- Josh Swanson, Operating Engineers 302

- Lawrence Larson
- Marypat Meuli
- Jared Nielsen
- JR Richards
- Connie Riker
- Adam Rudnick
- Stephanie Sams
- Eve Sheng
- Lora Wood

Summary

Meeting Recorded

This meeting was [recorded](#) and livestreamed by TVW. Please reference this recording for further meeting details and full dialogue using the indicated timestamps.

Welcome and Opening Remarks

Committee chair JR Richards welcomed everyone to the meeting and asked committee assistant Colin Helsley to call roll.

During roll call, Brenda Weist mentioned Sybill Hyppolite is on leave. Brenda also mentioned Josh Swanson is no longer working with the Operators and Joe will work on figuring out a replacement.

Agenda

JR reviewed the following agenda items (also see Addendum I)

- Approval of December 11, 2024, and January 29, 2025, meeting minutes
- Rulemaking Update
- Legislation Update
- Public comment
- Adjourn

Meeting Minutes

JR requested that committee members review the December 11, 2024, draft UIAC meeting minutes and provide their feedback. Lindsey Hueer moved to approve the minutes. Josie Cummings seconded the motion. All in favor said “aye”. No members were opposed. The December 11, 2024, meeting minutes were approved.

JR requested that committee members review the January 29, 2025, draft UIAC meeting minutes and provide their feedback. Brenda Weist moved to approve the minutes. Lindsey Hueer seconded the motion. All in favor said “aye”. No members were opposed. The January 29, 2025, meeting minutes were approved.

Rulemaking Update

Stephanie Frazee, Legislation and Rules Coordinator, ESD provided a rulemaking update using the following slides.

Rulemaking



- **Address Change Requirement** - We are adding an explicit requirement that employers provide their new address to the Department within 30 days after an address change. We filed the CR 102 to formally propose the rules. Hearing will be on March 27 at 10:00.
- **Space Force** – We are updating the rule on mandatory military transfers to include all members of the U.S. Armed Forces, including Space Force. We have filed the CR 102; hearing will be on March 6 at 9:00 AM.
- **Rescinding Withdrawal of Appeal** – Working on a process and standard of review for situations where a claimant or employer withdraws an appeal and later wishes to request to reinstate the appeal. We filed the CR 103. Rule will become effective on March 8.

No questions were raised.

Legislation Update

Josh Dye, Interim Government Relations Director, ESD to present information from the following slides on Government Relation Updates.

Legislation update



Bills we are tracking

SB 5041

Concerning unemployment insurance benefits for striking or lockout workers

Exec'd out Feb 14 (L&C)
Referred to Ways & Means

HB 1313 and SB 5525

Concerning mass layoffs, relocations and terminations

HB 1313 – Exec'd out Feb 14 (LWS)
SB 5525 – Exec'd out Feb 14 (L&C)
Passed to Rules

HB 1682

Part-time workers in UI system
Exec'd out Feb 18 (LWS)

SB 5459

Call center retention

Exec'd out Feb 14 (L&C)
Passed to Rules

HB 1843 & SB 5540

Student Disqualification UI

HB 1843 – Exec'd out Feb 14 (LWS)
SB 5540 – Exec Session Feb 18 (L&C)
Passed to Rules

Legislation update



Bills we are tracking

SB 5722

Grant program to promote workforce development

Public hearing Feb 17 (L&C)
Exec Session Feb 21 (L&C)

HB 1773 and SB 5626

Creating wage replacement program for certain workers excluded from UI

HB 1773 – Exec'd out Feb 14 (LWS)
SB 5626 – Exec session Feb 21 (L&C)

SB 5400

Supporting local journalism

Exec'd out Feb 14 (L&C)
Referred to Ways & Means

[Recording timestamp 00:08:18](#)

Question from John Glynn: Concerning mass layoff relocation term. Was that the one that's parallel to the Warren Act, where have an employer's report?

Answer from Josh Dye: Yeah, it's yes. The Washington Warn Act, there are a few differences, but for the most part it's a lot of the bill, rather I should say, is adding one act to state law, and then it goes a little bit farther. They both include a requirement to cover health care. For the other thing I'll mention on the 1313 to 5525. There was a mention, in public testimony, that ESD would analyze the data and we just kind of want to go on. Our current plan is to collect the data, make it available. But we would not be doing under the current draft. We wouldn't do any analysis. We would just make sure that the information that's provided to us is made available to the public good.

[Recording timestamp 00:09:21](#)

Question from Julia Gorton: Hello! I know that the public isn't able to ask questions, so I think I will ask the question in the chat. Is there a public fiscal note for 5041 available. It doesn't appear to be on the legislative website.

Answer from Josh Dye: Yeah. There's been some snags with it on somehow the technical aspects of it. They are working on it so it should be available, both the original bill has a fiscal note and the substitute. I'm hoping, they're going to be available any day now. They are with OFM. Then for mentioned for the student disqualification for UI. One of the things that I think was mentioned in testimony, and just to kind of reiterate. In most cases, is, repealing the student disqualification would not really change a lot of the process. We currently, for anyone who is flagged as school follow up with them. So, they get flagged for an adjudicator, they followed up and if they confirm that they are willing to accept work, to leave, enroll and accept work, so they are able and available then they would qualify for UI. The same requirements will pretty much be in effect where they still have to be able and

available for work, actively seeking work and all the other what this would do is just making that if they are enrolled in school. It's not an automatic disqualification and again, are currently they get flagged for disqualification. But we follow up with every claimant.

Recording timestamp 00:11:16

Question from Julia Gorton: Is it sort of the same situation with the part time workers bill, that it's not significantly different.

Answer from Josh Dye: Yeah, with part time workers, one of the interesting parts, I guess we'll say, is we don't currently have very good data to figure out who would be considered part time workers. We kind of had to do a little bit of mathematical guesstimations, if you will, to look at some of the USDOL data. We basically just get how many hours per quarter they work. We're looking at it. It does make such a substantive change to the part time worker eligibility, though. Currently part-time workers, in order to be to qualify as a part time eligible worker, you cannot work more than 17 hours in any week. Which is probably the largest barrier for those particular claimants. This would have some substantive changes to the definition of part time eligible workers. What we do not expect is a lot of additional claims to be filed. We're still kind of working through that. But it would potentially lead to more claims being approved. But we don't see a huge spike in applications.

Recording timestamp 00:16:06

Question from Julia Gorton: On 1773 and 5626. I know it creates a wage replacement program outside of UI. But are you hearing anything from the Federal administration about what they may or may not do, or what consequences, if any there may be in Washington.

Answer from Josh Dye: Yeah, that's the good question. We did connect with USDOL over the summer. ESD, we were given some money at last year's budget to stand up a work group to look at the funding mechanism. We connected with USDOL and the language for the funding mechanism, is as far as we can tell, within the conformity. It kind of mirrors a little bit of what Colorado did and so that's the reason some of the funding language in that bill gets a little, looks a little odd, just trying to hit those marks. We'll say that again that was over this past summer so I cannot provide any input about any of the current administration's views of it.

Recording timestamp 00:17:29

Question from Julia Gorton: Do you know if they will have any authority over the 3rd party administrator who will be, who will have this sensitive information.

Answer from Josh Dye: Our understanding is no. The way it is currently constructed, it would not have any Federal oversight.

Public Comments

JR offered an opportunity for committee members to bring up any topics they would like to discuss before public comments. Committee members did not bring forward additional topics.

JR reminded meeting participants that if they would like their comments captured in the meeting minutes to please email them to camille.galeno@esd.wa.gov.

Public Comment



- If you would like to make public comment, please state your name and spell it so we can capture it correctly for the minutes, as well as the organization you represent if any.
- Reminder:** Your comments are being recorded.
- If you would like your comments to be included in the meeting minutes, please submit them in writing via email to Camille Galeno at camille.galeno@esd.wa.gov. *(Camille's email will be posted in the chat)*
- Please limit your comments to **two minutes**.

No public comments were made.

Adjourned

JR thanked everyone for joining and adjourned the meeting.

Action Items

No action items.

Next meeting

March 19th, 2025, from 10:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. via Zoom.

Addendum I



Agenda

Unemployment Insurance Advisory Committee (UIAC)

Wednesday, Jan. 29, 2025 | 10:00 am- 11:00 am | Via Zoom | 212 Maple Park Ave SE, Olympia, WA 98501

| Time | Topic |
|----------|---|
| 10:00am | Welcome from JR Richards, Director, Unemployment Insurance Customer Support, Employment Security Department (ESD) <ul style="list-style-type: none">o Agenda overview |
| 10:05am | Approval of Dec. 11, 2024, meeting minutes – JR Richards |
| 10:10am | Rulemaking – Stephanie Frazee |
| 10:15am | Legislative updates – Josh Dye |
| 10:35am | General UI updates – JR Richards |
| 10:50am | Public Comment |
| 11:00 am | Adjourn |

For more information, please visit the UIAC website at <https://esd.wa.gov/newsroom/UIAC>

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Addendum II



Unemployment Insurance Advisory Committee

January 2025 – December 2025 Meeting Dates

| Date | Location | Host | Notes |
|---|----------|------|------------------|
| January 29, 2025 10:00 AM – 11:00 AM | Zoom | ESD | Recorded meeting |
| February 19, 2025, 2:00 PM – 3:00 PM | Zoom | ESD | Recorded meeting |
| March 19, 2025, 10:00 AM – 11:00 AM | Zoom | ESD | Recorded meeting |
| April 30, 2025, 2:00 PM – 3:00 PM | Zoom | ESD | Recorded meeting |
| June 25, 2025, 10:00 AM – 12:00 PM | Zoom | ESD | Recorded meeting |
| August 20, 2025, 1:00 PM – 3:00 PM | Zoom | ESD | Recorded meeting |
| September 17, 2025, 10:00 AM – 12:00 PM | Zoom | ESD | Recorded meeting |
| October 22, 2025, 1:00 PM – 3:00 PM | Zoom | ESD | Recorded meeting |
| December 10, 2025, 10:00 AM – 12:00 PM | Zoom | ESD | Recorded meeting |
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NOTE: Hosts may have the opportunity to present to the committee and bring invited guests as part of our meeting agenda.

Per vote of UI Advisory Committee members, meetings are being recorded as of 08/03/2020 meeting.

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