

ICSEW BILL ALERT

SB 5579

Granting WMS employees the right to collectively bargain



<https://lawfilesexternal.wa.gov/biennium/2021-22/Pdf/Bills/Senate%20Bills/5579.pdf?q=20220222165200>

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Why does this bill matter to you?

How does it apply to state employed women.

- Washington Management Service employees are granted the right to collectively bargain by removing the exclusion of WMS members from the definition of employee in the PSRA and removing a provision that prohibits WMS members from being included in a collective bargaining unit.
- Public Hearing PRO: The Legislature has already granted assistant attorneys general and administrative law judges bargaining rights but other employees lack access to the same rights and protections. Some employees will not take promotions because they lose access to bargaining and they will lack support and protections of a union. WMS employees need representation when sitting down for personnel actions. Corrections lieutenants do not have access to bargaining, but lieutenants in other agencies do.
- OTHER: Other states do not include management in unions to the scale of this bill. The pay range for WMS is large and historically WMS employees receive pay increases at the same rate as unionized employees. The inclusion of WMS can pit managers' interests against the employees they supervise. There is no guarantee that there will be an election to determine representation under the bill.

ICSEW Legislative and Policy Subcommittee is providing the following Bill Alert as a service to inform state employees of bills that may impact them. ICSEW asks that employees remember to share their opinion in an ethical way, on their own time, & using their own phone, computer, or device.

As state employees, we cannot use state time or resources to lobby for or against legislative proposals (RCW [42.52.160](#) and [42.52.180](#)). On your own time and using your own resources, let your voice be heard by:

Contacting your legislator directly by phone at the legislative hotline: 1-800-562-6000.

Finding their contact information: <http://app.leg.wa.gov/DistrictFinder/>

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