



State of Wisconsin
2025 - 2026 LEGISLATURE

LRB-1484/P3
MIM:emw/wlj/skw

DOA:.....Humphry, BB0326 - Worker's Rights

FOR 2025-2027 BUDGET -- NOT READY FOR INTRODUCTION

AN ACT ...; relating to: the budget.

Analysis by the Legislative Reference Bureau

EMPLOYMENT

Employee right to request and receive work schedule changes

Under the bill, an employer must negotiate in good faith with an employee to accommodate changes the employee requests to his or her work schedule. Further, unless an employer has a bona fide business reason for denying the request, the employer must approve an employee's request if it is directly related to any of the following:

1. A serious health condition of the employee.
2. Responsibilities of the employee as a caregiver for a family member.
3. Enrollment of the employee in certain educational or training programs.
4. A part-time employee's work scheduling conflicts with the employee's other employment.

If an employer denies an employee's request for a schedule change, the employer must inform the employee of the reasons for denial, including whether any of the reasons is a bona fide business reason as defined in the bill.

Service employee right to predictable work schedule

The bill requires an employer that employs an employee in certain service industry occupations, including retail, food service, and cleaning occupations, to provide the service employee with a written copy of the employee's work schedule on or before the service employee's first day of work. With certain exceptions, if an employer changes the service employee's work schedule, the employer must provide the new work schedule to the employee at least 14 days in advance.

The bill also requires that, if an employer changes a service employee's work schedule with fewer than 14 days' notice, the employer must pay the service employee an amount equal to the employee's regular rate of pay for one hour of work. Exceptions to this requirement include when the employee consents to the change or when the employer requires the service employee to work additional time because another employee was scheduled to work that time and is unexpectedly unavailable to work.

The bill also requires the following for employers that use certain scheduling practices:

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1. If the service employee reports to work and the employer does not allow the employee to work all time scheduled, the employer must provide the employee with 1) full compensation as if the employee had worked the full shift or 2) if the employee is scheduled to work more than four hours and works less than four hours, an amount equal to the employee's regular rate of pay for the difference between four hours and the amount of time the employee actually works.

2. If the employer requires the service employee to contact the employer, or wait to be contacted by the employer less than 24 hours before a work shift to determine whether the employee must report to work, the employer must pay the employee an amount equal to the employee's regular rate of pay for one hour of work.

3. If the employer requires the service employee to work a split shift, the employer must pay the employee an amount equal to the employee's regular rate of pay for one hour of work.

If a service employee experiences more than one type of these scheduling practices with respect to a particular work shift, the employer must pay only one type of compensation, whichever is greatest.

The bill also provides that, during any period in which the employer's regular operations are suspended due to an event outside of the employer's control, the employer is not required to comply with the service employee work scheduling requirements created in the bill.

Enforcement

The bill provides that an employer may not interfere with, restrain, or deny the exercise of the right of an employee created in the bill and may not discharge or discriminate against an employee for enforcing the employee's rights under the bill. An employee whose rights are violated may file a complaint with DWD, and DWD must process the complaint in the same manner that employment discrimination complaints are processed under current law. That processing may include the ordering of back pay, reinstatement, compensation in lieu of reinstatement, and costs and attorney fees.

The bill also provides that DWD or an employee whose rights are violated may bring an action in circuit court against the employer without regard to exhaustion of any administrative remedy. If the circuit court finds that a violation has occurred, the employer may be liable to the employee for compensatory damages, reasonable attorney fees and costs, and, under certain circumstances, liquidated damages equal to 100 percent of the amount of compensatory damages awarded to the employee. In addition to any damages imposed on an employer in an administrative proceeding or circuit court action, an employer that willfully violates the protections created in the bill may be required to forfeit not more than \$1,000 for each violation.

BILL***Compensation in job posting***

Under the bill, an employer must include the compensation for the position in any job posting made by the employer.

Liquidated damages in wage claim actions

Under current law, if an employee files a claim in circuit court for unpaid wages, the court may award liquidated damages to the employee in addition to past due wages. Under current law, the liquidated damages are as follows: 1) if an employee files the suit before DWD has finished its investigation and attempted to settle the claim, a court may award not more than 50 percent of the wages due and unpaid and 2) if an employee files the suit after DWD has completed its investigation of a wage claim, a court may award not more than 100 percent of the wages due and unpaid. Under the bill, irrespective of whether DWD has completed its investigation of a wage claim, an employee is presumed to be entitled to 100 percent of the wages due and unpaid in liquidated damages in addition to the unpaid wages due. An employer may rebut this presumption by demonstrating that they acted in good faith and had a reasonable belief that they were in compliance with the law.

For further information see the state and local fiscal estimate, which will be printed as an appendix to this bill.

The people of the state of Wisconsin, represented in senate and assembly, do enact as follows:

SECTION 1. 103.035 of the statutes is created to read:

103.035 Work schedule flexibility and predictability. (1) DEFINITIONS.

In this section:

(a) “Bona fide business reason” means a reason that justifies an employer’s action and that is based on the employer’s determination that taking a different action would have any of the following results:

1. Additional costs to the employer, including costs of lost employee productivity, retaining or hiring employees, or transferring employees between work locations.

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2. A significant detrimental effect on the employer's ability to meet organizational needs or customer demand.

3. A significant inability of the employer, despite the employer's best efforts, to reorganize work among other employees.

4. A significant detrimental effect on the employer's business performance.

5. Insufficient work during the period an employee proposes to work.

6. Unfairness to other employees who request changes to work schedules if granting all requests would have a significant detrimental effect on the employer's ability to meet organizational needs.

(b) "Child" means an individual who is all of the following:

1. A biological, adopted, or foster child; a stepchild; a legal ward; or a child of a person standing in the place of a parent with respect to that child.

2. An individual to whom any of the following applies:

a. The individual is less than 18 years of age.

b. The individual is 18 years of age or older and is incapable of self-care because of a mental or physical disability.

(c) "Domestic partner" has the meaning given in s. 40.02 (21c) or 770.01 (1).

(d) "Employee" means an employee who is employed by an employer.

(e) "Employer" means an employer that employs at least 15 employees.

"Employer" includes the state, its political subdivisions, and any office, department, independent agency, authority, institution, association, society, or other body in state or local government created or authorized to be created by the constitution or any law, including the legislature and the courts.

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(f) “Family member” means any of the following:

1. A spouse or domestic partner of an employee.
2. A parent, child, sibling, brother-in-law, sister-in-law, grandparent, or grandchild of an employee or of an employee’s spouse or domestic partner.
3. Any other individual who is related by blood, marriage, or adoption to an employee or to an employee’s spouse or domestic partner and whose close association with the employee, spouse, or domestic partner makes the individual the equivalent of an individual listed under subd. 2.

(g) “Grandchild” means the child of a child.

(h) “Grandparent” means the parent of a parent.

(i) “Nonexempt employee” means an employee who is not employed in a bona fide executive, administrative, or professional capacity, as described in [29 USC 213](#)
(a) (1).

(j) “Parent” means a biological parent, foster parent, adoptive parent, stepparent, or legal guardian of an employee or of an employee’s spouse or domestic partner.

(k) “Part-time employee” means an employee who works on average fewer than 30 hours per week for a particular employer.

(L) “Service employee” means a nonexempt employee who is employed in any of the occupations classified under the following codes set forth in the Standard Occupational Classification System, 2018 edition, published by the bureau of labor statistics of the U.S. department of labor:

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1. Major group code 35-0000 — food preparation and serving related occupations.

2. Broad occupation code 37-2010 — building cleaning workers.

3. Detailed occupation code 41-1011 — first-line supervisors of retail sales workers.

4. Minor group code 41-2000 — retail sales workers.

(m) “Sibling” means a brother, sister, half brother, half sister, stepbrother, stepsister, foster brother, or foster sister, whether by blood, marriage, or adoption.

(n) “Split shift” means a work shift that consists of work time that is not continuous. For purposes of determining whether a work shift is continuous, any of the following breaks in work time are not considered:

1. One or more breaks for meals that total one hour or less.
2. A break that is requested by the employee.

(o) “Work schedule” means the days and times during each successive work period when an employee is required by an employer to perform duties of employment.

(p) “Work shift” means the specific times during a day that an employer requires an employee to work.

(q) “Written” includes a communication that is transmitted or received by electronic means.

(2) EMPLOYEE RIGHT TO REQUEST AND RECEIVE WORK SCHEDULE CHANGES. (a)

Employee right to request work schedule changes. 1. An employee may request a

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change in the terms and conditions of employment related to any of the following, and may make such a request by email or text message:

- a. The number of hours the employee is required to work or be on call for work.
- b. The days or times when the employee is required to work or be on call for work.
- c. The location where the employee is required to work.
- d. The amount of notification the employee receives regarding changes to the employee's work schedule.
- e. Minimizing fluctuations in the number of hours the employee is scheduled to work on a daily, weekly, or monthly basis.

2. An employee who makes a request under subd. 1. shall specify in the request whether it is related to any of the following:

- a. A serious health condition, as defined under s. 103.10 (1) (g), of the employee.
- b. The employee's responsibilities as a significant provider of ongoing care, including responsibility for securing ongoing care, of the employee's child, family member with a serious health condition, as defined under s. 103.10 (1) (g), or parent who is 65 years of age or older.
- c. The employee's responsibilities as a significant provider of education, including responsibility for securing education, of the employee's child.
- d. The employee's enrollment in an educational or training program or program of study that leads to a recognized postsecondary credential.

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e. If the employee is a part-time employee, conflicts with the employee's other employment.

(b) *Evaluating requests for work schedule changes.* If an employer receives a request from an employee under par. (a), the employer shall either grant the request without modification or negotiate in good faith with the employee to find a compromise that meets the employee's and the employer's work scheduling needs, including by considering any alternative proposals offered by the employee. If the employer denies the request and any alternative proposals offered, the employer shall inform the employee of the reasons for denial, including whether any of the reasons is a bona fide business reason.

(c) *Requests related to serious health conditions, caregiving, education, or other part-time employment.* Notwithstanding par. (b), if an employer receives a request from an employee under par. (a) that is directly related to a reason specified under par. (a) 2., the employer shall grant the request unless the employer has a bona fide business reason for denying the request.

(d) *Verification of reasons for requested changes.* If an employer receives a request from an employee under par. (a), the employer may require the employee to provide additional information to clarify or explain the reasons for the employee's requested work schedule change if the employer needs that information to properly evaluate the request under par. (b) or (c).

(3) PREDICTABLE WORK SCHEDULES FOR RETAIL, FOOD SERVICE, AND CLEANING EMPLOYEES. (a) *Advance notice of work schedules required.* 1. On or before the first

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day of work of a new service employee, an employer shall provide the service employee with a written copy of the service employee's work schedule.

2. Except as provided in pars. (b) and (c), if an employer changes a work schedule provided to a service employee under this subdivision or subd. 1., the employer shall provide the service employee with a written copy of the new work schedule no later than 14 days before the new work schedule begins.

3. An employer shall post a copy of a work schedule provided under this paragraph in at least one of the following ways:

a. In one or more conspicuous places where notices to employees are customarily posted.

b. On a website accessible by all of the employer's employees.

4. If an employer changes a work schedule after it is posted under subd. 3., the employer shall revise the posted work schedule to reflect those changes.

(b) *Employer-initiated changes to work schedules without advance notice.* 1. An employer may change, without the advance notice required under par. (a) 2., a work schedule provided to a service employee under par. (a) 1. or 2. as provided in this paragraph. Except as provided under subd. 2., if the employer changes a work schedule provided to a service employee under par. (a) 1. or 2. less than 14 days before the new work schedule begins, the employer shall provide the service employee compensation for the change in an amount equal to the service employee's regular rate of pay for one hour of work in addition to any other compensation earned by the service employee.

2. An employer is not required to pay compensation to a service employee

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under subd. 1. for a change to the service employee's work schedule if any of the following applies to the change:

a. The service employee consents to the change.

b. The employer requires the service employee to work additional time or an additional work shift because another service employee was scheduled to work that time or work shift and is unexpectedly unavailable to work.

(c) *Employee-initiated changes to work schedules.* An employer may allow a service employee to agree to work in place of another service employee if the service employees mutually agree to the change. The employer is not required to provide compensation under par. (b) 1. to a service employee with respect to a work shift agreement under this paragraph.

(d) *Compensation for reporting time, on-call time, and split shifts.* 1. Except as provided in subd. 4., if a service employee reports to work and the service employee's employer does not allow the service employee to work all time that the service employee is scheduled to work, the employer shall provide the service employee with the following compensation:

a. If the service employee is scheduled to work 4 hours or less, an amount equal to the service employee's regular rate of pay for all time the service employee is scheduled to work but does not work in addition to any other compensation earned by the service employee for time the service employee actually works.

b. If the service employee is scheduled to work more than 4 hours and works less than 4 hours, an amount equal to the service employee's regular rate of pay for the difference between 4 hours and the amount of time the service employee

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actually works in addition to any other compensation earned by the service employee for time the service employee actually works.

2. Except as provided in subd. 4., if an employer requires a service employee to contact the employer, or wait to be contacted by the employer, less than 24 hours before a work shift begins to determine whether the employer will require the service employee to report to work for that work shift, the employer shall provide the service employee compensation in an amount equal to the service employee's regular rate of pay for one hour of work in addition to any other compensation earned by the service employee for time the service employee actually works.

3. Except as provided in subd. 4, if an employer requires a service employee to work a split shift, the employer shall provide the service employee compensation in an amount equal to the service employee's regular rate of pay for one hour of work in addition to any other compensation earned by the service employee for time the service employee actually works.

4. If a service employee is entitled to more than one type of compensation under subds. 1. to 3. with respect to a particular work shift, the employer shall pay the service employee the compensation required under subd. 1., 2., or 3., whichever is greatest.

(e) *Manner of payment of additional compensation.* An employer that is required to provide compensation to a service employee under par. (b) 1. or (d) shall pay that compensation on the service employee's regular paycheck or other wage payment. The employer shall identify on the paycheck, pay envelope, or paper

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accompanying the wage payment the amount of and reason for all additional compensation paid.

(f) *Exception.* An employer is not required to comply with this subsection during a period in which the employer's regular operations are suspended due to an event outside of the employer's control.

(4) PROHIBITED ACTS. (a) No employer may interfere with, restrain, or deny the exercise of the right of an employee to request and receive a change in the terms and conditions of employment as provided under sub. (2). No employer may interfere with, restrain, or deny the exercise of the right of a service employee to receive advance notice of work schedules as provided under sub. (3) (a), receive compensation as provided under sub. (3) (b) 1. and (d), or request approval to work in place of another employee as provided under sub. (3) (c).

(b) No employer may discharge or discriminate against an employee in promotion, in compensation, or in the terms, conditions, or privileges of employment for exercising a right of an employee described under par. (a), opposing a practice prohibited under this section, filing or indicating an intent to file a complaint or otherwise attempting to enforce a right under this section, or testifying, assisting, or participating in any manner in any investigation, action, or proceeding to enforce a right under this section.

(c) Section 111.322 (2m) applies to discharge or other discriminatory acts arising in connection with any proceeding under this section.

(5) ENFORCEMENT. (a) *Administrative proceeding.* An employee whose rights are interfered with, restrained, or denied in violation of sub. (4) (a) or who is

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discharged or discriminated against in violation of sub. (4) (b) may file a complaint with the department, and the department shall process the complaint in the same manner that employment discrimination complaints are processed under s. 111.39. If the department finds that a violation has occurred, the department may order the employer to take action to remedy the violation, including any action authorized under s. 111.39.

(b) *Civil action.* 1. The department or an employee whose rights are interfered with, restrained, or denied in violation of sub. (4) (a) or who is discharged or discriminated against in violation of sub. (4) (b) may bring an action in circuit court against an employer on the basis of the violation without regard to exhaustion of any administrative remedy.

2. In an action under subd. 1., if the circuit court finds that a violation of sub. (4) (a) or (b) has occurred with respect to an employee, the circuit court shall order the defendant to pay to the employee all of the following:

a. Compensatory damages in an amount that the circuit court or jury finds appropriate.

b. Unless the employer proves that the employer acted in good faith and had a reasonable basis for believing that the act or omission that constituted the violation was not a violation of this section, an additional amount as liquidated damages equal to 100 percent of the amount of compensatory damages determined under subd. 2. a.

c. Notwithstanding s. 814.04 (1), reasonable attorney fees and costs incurred in the action.

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3. Damages awarded under subd. 2. are in addition to any back pay or other amounts awarded under s. 111.39 or 111.395.

(6) PENALTIES. In addition to any damages imposed under sub. (5), an employer that willfully violates this section may be required to forfeit not more than \$1,000 for each violation. Each day of continued violation constitutes a separate offense.

(7) NOTICE POSTED. An employer shall post, in one or more conspicuous places where notices to employees are customarily posted, a notice in a form approved by the department setting forth employees' rights under this section. An employer that violates this subsection shall forfeit not more than \$100 for each violation.

SECTION 2. 103.44 of the statutes is created to read:

103.44 Compensation included in job postings. In each job posting seeking applicants that is made by an employer, the employer shall include the compensation for the position.

SECTION 3. 109.11 (1) (c) of the statutes is amended to read:

109.11 (1) (c) If an employer does not agree to compromise and settle a wage claim under this subsection, the department may refer the wage claim to a district attorney under s. 109.09 (1) or to the department of justice under s. 109.10 (3) for commencement of an action in circuit court to collect the amount of wages due and unpaid plus increased wages as specified in sub. (2) ~~(b)~~ (a).

SECTION 4. 109.11 (2) (a) of the statutes is amended to read:

109.11 (2) (a) ~~In Except as provided in par. (c), in a wage claim action that is commenced by an employee before the department has completed its investigation under s. 109.09 (1) and its attempts to compromise and settle the wage claim under~~

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~~sub. (1)~~, a circuit court ~~may~~ shall order the employer to pay to the employee, in addition to the amount of wages due and unpaid and in addition to or in lieu of the criminal penalties specified in sub. (3), increased wages of not more than ~~50~~ 100 percent of the amount of wages due and unpaid.

SECTION 5. 109.11 (2) (b) of the statutes is repealed.

SECTION 6. 109.11 (2) (c) of the statutes is created to read:

109.11 (2) (c) An employer may rebut the presumption of increased wages under par. (a) by demonstrating that they acted in good faith and had a reasonable belief that they were in compliance with the law.

SECTION 7. 111.322 (2m) (a) of the statutes is amended to read:

111.322 (2m) (a) The individual files a complaint or attempts to enforce any right under s. 103.02, 103.035, 103.10, 103.108, 103.11, 103.13, 103.28, 103.32, 103.34, 103.455, 103.50, 104.12, 109.03, 109.07, 109.075, 146.997, or 995.55, or ss. 101.58 to 101.599 or 103.64 to 103.82.

****NOTE: This is reconciled s. 111.322 (2m) (a). This SECTION has been affected by drafts with the following LRB numbers: -1484/P2, -1746/P1, and -1772/P4.

SECTION 8. 111.322 (2m) (b) of the statutes is amended to read:

111.322 (2m) (b) The individual testifies or assists in any action or proceeding held under or to enforce any right under s. 103.02, 103.035, 103.10, 103.108, 103.11, 103.13, 103.28, 103.32, 103.34, 103.455, 103.50, 104.12, 109.03, 109.07, 109.075, 146.997, or 995.55, or ss. 101.58 to 101.599 or 103.64 to 103.82.

****NOTE: This is reconciled s. 111.322 (2m) (b). This SECTION has been affected by drafts with the following LRB numbers: -1484/P2, -1746/P1, and -1772/P4.

SECTION 9150. Nonstatutory provisions; Workforce Development.

(1) PREDICTABLE WORK SCHEDULES FOR RETAIL, FOOD SERVICE, AND CLEANING

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EMPLOYEES; TRANSITIONAL PROVISIONS. No later than the effective date of this subsection, an employer, as defined in s. 103.035 (1) (e), shall provide each service employee, as defined in s. 103.035 (1) (L), with a written copy of the service employee's work schedule, as defined in s. 103.035 (1) (o). That work schedule is considered a work schedule provided to a service employee under s. 103.035 (3) (a) 2. for all purposes under s. 103.035, including that the employer shall post a copy of the work schedule as provided in s. 103.035 (3) (a) 3., and, if the employer changes that work schedule, s. 103.035 (3) (a) 2. applies to that change.

SECTION 9350. Initial applicability; Workforce Development.

(1) PREDICTABLE WORK SCHEDULES FOR RETAIL, FOOD SERVICE, AND CLEANING EMPLOYEES. The treatment of s. 103.035 first applies to an employee who is covered by a collective bargaining agreement that contains provisions inconsistent with s. 103.035 on the day on which the collective bargaining agreement expires or is extended, modified, or renewed, whichever occurs first.

SECTION 9450. Effective dates; Workforce Development.

(1) PREDICTABLE WORK SCHEDULES FOR RETAIL, FOOD SERVICE, AND CLEANING EMPLOYEES. The treatment of s. 103.035 takes effect on the first day of the 6th month beginning after publication.

(END)