
HOUSE BILL 2516

State of Washington

66th Legislature

2020 Regular Session

By Representatives Duerr, Kirby, Ryu, Kilduff, Springer, and Tarleton

1 AN ACT Relating to creating the secure choice retirement savings
2 program; amending RCW 43.330.732, 43.330.735, and 30B.04.040;
3 reenacting and amending RCW 43.79A.040; adding new sections to
4 chapter 43.330 RCW; creating new sections; decodifying RCW
5 43.330.730; and prescribing penalties.

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

7 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** This act may be known and cited as the
8 secure choice retirement savings program act.

9 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** The legislature finds: That large numbers
10 of households in this state have no or inadequate retirement savings
11 and many of those households do not have access to any savings plan
12 at work; that this lack of retirement savings and coverage is more
13 prevalent among low-income households; and that it is well-
14 established that most workers will save for retirement if they are
15 offered a workplace savings program using an opt-out approach.
16 Washington state is deeply concerned about the retirement prospects
17 of its citizens and the strain that large numbers of ill-prepared
18 retirees may impose on taxpayer-financed elderly assistance programs
19 for housing, food, medical care, and other necessities. Accordingly,
20 this act will facilitate voluntary retirement savings by workers in

1 this state by establishing an IRA savings program with automatic
2 enrollment ("auto-IRA") and requiring employers in this state that do
3 not offer a retirement plan to make the program available to their
4 employees.

5 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 3.** The definitions in this section apply
6 throughout sections 2 through 13 of this act unless the context
7 clearly requires otherwise.

8 (1) "Administrative fee" means the amount deducted from the
9 investment fund of a covered employee and used to pay the costs
10 associated with administering the program.

11 (2) "Administrative fund" means the secure choice retirement
12 savings administrative fund established under section 7 of this act.

13 (3) "Commissioner" means the commissioner of the employment
14 security department.

15 (4) "Compensation" means compensation within the meaning of
16 section 219(f)(1) of the internal revenue code that is received by a
17 covered employee from a covered employer or a professional employer
18 organization, as such term is defined in RCW 50.04.298.

19 (5) "Contribution rate" means the percentage of a covered
20 employee's compensation that is withheld from his or her compensation
21 and paid to the IRA established for the covered employee under the
22 program.

23 (6) "Covered employee" means any individual who is eighteen years
24 of age or older, who is in the employment of a covered employer, and
25 who has compensation that is allocable to the state. For purposes of
26 the investment, fee, withdrawal, transfer, rollover, or other
27 distribution of an IRA, the term covered employee also includes the
28 beneficiary of a deceased covered employee and an "alternate payee"
29 under state domestic relations law. For purposes of sections 2
30 through 13 of this act, a covered employee, as defined in this
31 subsection, who is performing services for a client employer that has
32 entered into a professional employer agreement with a professional
33 employer organization, as such terms are defined in RCW 50.04.298,
34 must be treated as in the employment of the client employer and not
35 by the professional employer organization.

36 (7) "Covered employer" means an employer that:

37 (a) Has not sponsored, maintained, or contributed to a retirement
38 plan under sections 401(a), 401(k), 403(a), 403(b), 408(k), or 408(p)
39 of the internal revenue code, including such a plan sponsored or

1 maintained by a professional employer organization with which the
2 employer has a professional employer agreement, as such terms are
3 defined in RCW 50.04.298, at any time during the preceding two
4 calendar years and does not currently sponsor, maintain, or
5 contribute to a retirement plan; or

6 (b) Elects to be a covered employer if and as permitted in
7 accordance with rules and procedures established by the commissioner.

8 (8) "Employer" means a person or entity engaged in a business,
9 profession, trade, or other enterprise in the state, whether for
10 profit or not for profit; provided that a federal or state entity,
11 agency, or instrumentality, or any political subdivision thereof, is
12 not an employer.

13 (9) "Employment" has the same meaning as in RCW 50A.05.010.

14 (10) "Internal revenue code" means the federal internal revenue
15 code of 1986, as amended.

16 (11) "Investment adviser" means:

17 (a) An investment adviser registered under the federal investment
18 advisers act of 1940; or

19 (b) A bank or other institution exempt from registration under
20 the federal investment advisers act of 1940.

21 (12) "Investment fund" means each investment portfolio
22 established by the commissioner within the trust for investment
23 purposes.

24 (13) "IRA" means either an individual retirement account or
25 individual retirement annuity established under section 408 or 408A
26 of the internal revenue code.

27 (14) "Program" means the secure choice retirement savings program
28 established under sections 2 through 13 of this act.

29 (15) "Trust" means the IRA retirement trust or annuity contract
30 established under section 8 of this act.

31 (16) "Trustee" means the trustee of the trust, including an
32 insurance company issuing an annuity contract, selected by the
33 commissioner under section 8 of this act.

34 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 4.** (1) The commissioner has the following
35 powers and duties:

36 (a) To design, establish, and operate the program in accordance
37 with the requirements set forth in sections 2 through 13 of this act;

38 (b) To collect administrative fees to defray the costs of
39 administering the program;

1 (c) To enter into contracts necessary or desirable for the
2 establishment and administration of the program;

3 (d) To hire, retain, and terminate other state or nonstate
4 entities as the commissioner deems necessary or desirable for all or
5 part of the services necessary for the management of the program
6 including, but not limited to, consultants, investment advisers,
7 trustees, custodians, insurance companies, recordkeepers,
8 administrators, actuaries, counsel, auditors, and other
9 professionals; provided that each service provider must be authorized
10 to do business in this state;

11 (e) To determine the type or types of IRAs to be offered; the
12 default contribution rate, provided that the default contribution
13 rate is no less than three percent and no more than ten percent of a
14 covered employee's compensation; and the automatic escalation rate
15 provided that the contribution rate is no more than ten percent;

16 (f) To employ a program director and such other individuals as
17 the commissioner determines to be necessary or desirable to
18 administer the program and the administrative fund;

19 (g) To develop and implement an outreach plan to gain input and
20 disseminate information regarding the program and retirement and
21 financial education in general, to employees, employers, and other
22 constituents in the state;

23 (h) To prescribe the records covered employers must maintain, and
24 to inspect and make copies of such records at any reasonable time and
25 as often as may be necessary;

26 (i) To develop and implement a marketing strategy for the program
27 that includes outreach to communities of color and encourages small
28 business engagement;

29 (j) To determine the number of days by which an eligible employer
30 must make the program available to a covered employee upon first
31 becoming an eligible employer or covered employee;

32 (k) To adopt rules and procedures for the establishment and
33 operation of the program and to take such other actions necessary or
34 desirable to establish and operate the program in accordance with
35 sections 2 through 13 of this act.

36 (2) The commissioner shall use the following principles in the
37 design and operation of the program:

38 (a) Operate with reasonable costs but sufficient to ensure that
39 the program is sustainable;

1 (b) Structure the program so that covered employees are
2 automatically enrolled and covered employer participation is
3 required;

4 (c) Ensure that the program does not conflict with or be
5 preempted by federal law, including the employee retirement income
6 security act of 1974;

7 (d) Provide customer service processes to any and all pertinent
8 persons and disseminate program information to covered employers and
9 covered employees;

10 (e) Monitor the investment adviser's financial management
11 policies, processes, and performance.

12 (3) Other state agencies must provide appropriate and reasonable
13 assistance to the commissioner as needed, including gathering data
14 and information, in order for the commissioner to carry out the
15 purpose of sections 2 through 13 of this act. The commissioner may
16 reimburse the other state agencies from the administrative fund
17 established in section 7 of this act for reasonable expenses incurred
18 in providing appropriate and reasonable assistance.

19 (4) The commissioner shall not impose any obligations on the
20 state, nor may it pledge the credit of the state.

21 (5) The commissioner, in consultation with the legislature, has
22 the discretion to establish an advisory board of individuals with
23 experience in investments or retirement plan oversight and
24 management.

25 (6) The commissioner, in consultation with the state investment
26 board and the department of financial institutions, has discretion to
27 establish and maintain the program by: Contracting with another state
28 to use that state's auto-IRA program, partnering with one or more
29 states to create a joint auto-IRA program that includes the program,
30 or forming a consortium with one or more other states in which
31 certain aspects of each state's program are combined for
32 administrative convenience and efficiency, provided that in any such
33 case, the auto-IRA program used, the joint program, or the consortium
34 otherwise satisfies the requirements of this chapter.

35 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 5.** (1) The commissioner, the trustee, and
36 each investment adviser or other person which has discretionary
37 control of the assets of the trust shall be a fiduciary with respect
38 to the trust and IRAs established and maintained under the program.

1 (2) Each covered employer is required to provide covered
2 employees with such information as the commissioner directs. No
3 employer acting as such is a fiduciary with respect to the trust or
4 an IRA or has fiduciary responsibilities under sections 2 through 13
5 of this act.

6 (3) Each fiduciary shall discharge its duties with respect to the
7 program solely in the interests of covered employees and with the
8 care, skill, prudence, and diligence under the circumstances then
9 prevailing that a prudent person acting in a like capacity and
10 familiar with those matters would use in the conduct of an enterprise
11 of like character and aims.

12 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 6.** The secure choice retirement savings
13 program must be designed, established, and operated in accordance
14 with the following:

15 (1) Each covered employer is required to offer to each covered
16 employee an opportunity to contribute to an IRA established under the
17 program for the benefit of the covered employee through withholding
18 from his or her compensation. No employer is permitted to contribute
19 to the program or to endorse or otherwise promote the program.

20 (2) Unless the covered employee chooses otherwise, he or she
21 shall be automatically enrolled in the program and contributions
22 shall be withheld from such covered employee's compensation at a rate
23 set by the commissioner unless the covered employee elects not to
24 contribute or to contribute at a different rate.

25 (3) The contribution rate of each covered employee shall be
26 increased at such rate and at such intervals as from time to time
27 established by the commissioner, unless the covered employee elects
28 not to have such automatic increases apply.

29 (4) The contribution rate of each covered employee shall be
30 applied whenever a covered employer compensates a covered employee. A
31 covered employer may not withhold contributions in lump sums from a
32 covered employee.

33 (5) The IRAs are intended to qualify for favorable federal income
34 tax treatment under section 408 or 408A of the internal revenue code.

35 (6) The commissioner may establish intervals after which a
36 covered employee must reaffirm elections, including opt-out
37 elections, with regard to participation or escalation.

38 (7) Each covered employer shall deposit covered employees'
39 withheld contributions under the program with the trustee in such

1 manner as is determined by the commissioner, provided that the
2 employer shall deliver the amounts withheld to the trustee in good
3 order within ten business days after the date such amounts otherwise
4 would have been paid to the covered employee.

5 (8) The commissioner shall determine the rules and procedures for
6 withdrawals, distributions, transfers, and rollovers of IRAs and for
7 the designation of IRA beneficiaries.

8 (9) The commissioner shall report annually to the governor and
9 the legislature outlining the commissioner's activities and the
10 program's operations.

11 (10) The commissioner shall cause to be furnished to each covered
12 employer and may provide directly to covered employees:

13 (a) Information regarding the program;

14 (b) Required disclosures to be furnished to covered employees.

15 Such disclosures must include:

16 (i) A description of the benefits and risks associated with
17 making contributions under the program;

18 (ii) Instructions about how to obtain additional information
19 about the program;

20 (iii) A description of the tax consequences of an IRA, which may
21 consist of or include the disclosure statement required to be
22 distributed by the trustee under the internal revenue code and the
23 treasury regulations thereunder;

24 (iv) A statement that covered employees seeking financial advice
25 should contact their own financial advisers and that covered
26 employers are not in a position to provide financial advice and that
27 covered employers are not liable for decisions covered employees make
28 under sections 2 through 13 of this act;

29 (v) A statement that the program is not an employer-sponsored
30 retirement plan;

31 (vi) A statement that neither the program nor the covered
32 employee's IRA established under the program is guaranteed by the
33 state;

34 (vii) A statement that neither a covered employer nor the state
35 will monitor or has an obligation to monitor the covered employee's
36 eligibility under the internal revenue code to make contributions to
37 an IRA or to monitor whether the covered employee's contributions to
38 the IRA established for the covered employee under the program exceed
39 the maximum permissible IRA contribution; that it is the covered
40 employee's responsibility to monitor such matters; and that the

1 state, the program, and the covered employer have no liability with
2 respect to any failure of the covered employee to be eligible to make
3 IRA contributions or any contribution in excess of the maximum IRA
4 contribution;

5 (c) Information, forms, and instructions to be furnished to
6 covered employees at such times as the commissioner determines that
7 provide the covered employee with the procedures for:

8 (i) Making contributions to the covered employee's IRA
9 established under the program, including a description of the
10 automatic enrollment rate, the automatic escalation rate and
11 frequency, and the right to elect to make no contribution or to
12 change the contribution rate under the program;

13 (ii) Making an investment election with respect to the covered
14 employee's IRA established under the program, including a description
15 of the default investment fund;

16 (iii) Making transfers, rollovers, withdrawals, and other
17 distributions from the covered employee's IRA.

18 (11) Each covered employer shall deliver or facilitate the
19 delivery of the items set forth in subsection (10)(b) and (c) of this
20 section to each covered employee at such time and in such manner as
21 determined by the commissioner.

22 (12) The program must be designed and operated in a manner that
23 will cause it not to be an employee benefit plan within the meaning
24 of section 3(3) of the employee retirement income security act of
25 1974. If any provision of this act is found to be in conflict with
26 federal law or regulations, including the employee retirement income
27 security act of 1974, the conflicting provision of this act is
28 declared to be inoperative solely to the extent of the conflict, and
29 that finding or determination shall not affect the operation of the
30 remainder of this act.

31 (13) Nothing in sections 2 through 13 of this act prohibits a
32 covered employer from contracting with a third party, such as a
33 payroll service provider or a professional employer organization, to
34 assist such employer with the tasks required of a covered employer
35 under sections 2 through 13 of this act.

36 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 7.** (1) The secure choice retirement savings
37 administrative fund is hereby established in the custody of the state
38 treasurer as a nonappropriated account separate and apart from the
39 trust. The commissioner shall use moneys in the administrative fund

1 to pay for administrative expenses it incurs in the performance of
2 its duties under sections 2 through 13 of this act. The
3 administrative fund may receive any grants or other moneys designated
4 for the administrative fund from the state, or any unit of federal or
5 local government, or any other person. Any interest earnings that are
6 attributable to moneys in the administrative fund must be deposited
7 into the administrative fund. Only the commissioner may authorize
8 expenditures from the fund. The fund is subject to allotment
9 procedures under chapter 43.88 RCW, but an appropriation is not
10 required for expenditures.

11 (2) The fund is authorized to maintain a cash deficit in the fund
12 for a period of no more than eight fiscal years after the
13 implementation of the secure choice retirement savings program to
14 defray its initial program administration costs. By January 1, 2021,
15 the commissioner shall establish a program administration spending
16 plan and an administrative fee schedule to discharge any projected
17 cash deficit to the fund. The legislature may make appropriations
18 into the fund for the purpose of reducing program administration
19 costs.

20 (3) Administrative fees may be used to contract with another
21 state to use that state's program or to create a joint program or
22 consortium with one or more states offering an existing program. No
23 other state funds may be used to contract or partner with one or more
24 other states.

25 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 8.** There is hereby created as an
26 instrumentality of the state a trust to be known as the secure choice
27 retirement savings trust.

28 (1) The commissioner shall appoint an institution qualified to
29 act as trustee of IRA trusts or insurance company issuing annuity
30 contracts under section 408 of the internal revenue code and licensed
31 to do business in the state to act as trustee.

32 (2) The assets of IRAs established for covered employees must be
33 allocated to the trust and combined for investment purposes. Trust
34 assets must be managed and administered for the exclusive purposes of
35 providing benefits to covered employees and defraying reasonable
36 expenses of administering and maintaining, and managing investments,
37 of the IRAs and the trust, including the expenses of the commissioner
38 under this act.

1 (3) The commissioner shall establish within the trust one or more
2 investment funds, each pursuing an investment strategy and policy
3 established by the commissioner. The underlying investments of each
4 investment fund shall be diversified, to the extent the commissioner
5 determines to be appropriate, so as to minimize the risk of large
6 losses under the circumstances. The commissioner may, at any time and
7 from time to time, add, replace, or remove any investment fund.

8 (4) The commissioner may allow covered employees to allocate
9 assets of their IRAs among such investment funds and in such case,
10 the commissioner also may designate an investment fund as a default
11 investment for the IRAs of covered employees who do not make an
12 investment choice.

13 (5) Subject to subsection (6) of this section, the commissioner,
14 in consultation with such third-party professional investment
15 advisers, managers, or consultants as it may retain, shall select the
16 underlying investments of each investment fund. Such underlying
17 investments may include, without limitation, shares of mutual funds
18 and exchange-traded funds, publicly traded equity, and fixed-income
19 securities, and other investments available for investment by the
20 trust. No investment fund may invest in any bond, debt instrument, or
21 other security issued by this state.

22 (6) The commissioner may, in its discretion, retain an investment
23 adviser to select and manage the investments of an investment fund on
24 a discretionary basis, subject to the commissioner's ongoing review
25 and oversight.

26 (7) The trustee is subject to directions of the commissioner
27 under subsection (5) of this section or an investment adviser under
28 subsection (6) of this section and otherwise has no responsibility
29 for the selection, retention, or disposition of trust investments or
30 assets.

31 (8) The assets of the trust must at all times be preserved,
32 invested, and expended solely for the purposes of the trust and no
33 property rights therein shall exist in favor of the state or any
34 covered employer. Trust assets may not be transferred or used by the
35 state for any purposes other than the purposes of the trust or
36 funding the expenses of operating the program, including the expenses
37 of the commissioner. Amounts deposited with the trustee are not
38 property of the state and may not be commingled with state funds and
39 the state has no claim to or against, or interest in, the trust
40 assets.

1 (9) The assets of the trust shall at all times be held separate
2 and apart from the assets of the state. None of the state, the
3 program, the commissioner, nor any employer may guaranty any
4 investment, rate of return, or interest on amounts held in the trust,
5 an investment fund, or any IRA. None of the state, the program, the
6 commissioner, or any employer is liable for any losses incurred by
7 trust investments or otherwise by any covered employee or other
8 person as a result of participating in the program except for any
9 liability that arises out of such person's breach of fiduciary duty
10 under section 5 of this act. The state, the program, the
11 commissioner, or any employer is not liable for the payment of
12 benefits earned by participating employees.

13 (10) Any security issued, managed, or invested by the
14 commissioner within the secure choice retirement savings trust on
15 behalf of an individual participating in the program is exempt from
16 RCW 21.20.140.

17 (11) The trust is authorized to engage in trust business under
18 Title 30B RCW and is exempt from the requirement to obtain a
19 certificate of authority from the department of financial
20 institutions under Title 30B RCW.

21 (12) If the commissioner determines to exercise his or her
22 discretion under section 4(6) of this act to establish the program by
23 using another state's auto-IRA program, establishing a joint program,
24 or a consortium with one or more other states, then the trust may be
25 established by adopting the trust established under such other
26 state's program or as a master trust or similar arrangement with such
27 other states, provided that such trust, master trust, or similar
28 arrangement otherwise satisfies the requirements of this section.

29 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 9.** (1) If the commissioner determines to
30 exercise his or her discretion under section 4(6) of this act:

31 (a) Only the secure choice retirement savings administrative fund
32 may be used to contract with another state to use that state's
33 program or to create a joint program or consortium with one or more
34 states offering an existing program.

35 (b) The rate of the administrative fee for covered employees may
36 not exceed the rate charged to employees of another state
37 participating in the same program.

38 (2) If the commissioner determines to not exercise his or her
39 authority under section 4(5) of this act, the rate of the

1 administrative fee for covered employees may not exceed one and five-
2 hundredths percent.

3 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 10.** (1) The commissioner may establish a
4 pilot program for covered employers to auto enroll employees into an
5 IRA by January 1, 2021. The commissioner may also provide for a
6 staggered rollout of the program so that covered employers are
7 initially required to offer the program to covered employees in
8 stages based on employee headcount or such other criteria as may be
9 established by the commissioner.

10 (2) The commissioner shall make the secure choice retirement
11 savings program available to all covered employees no earlier than
12 January 1, 2022, and no later than January 1, 2023.

13 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 11.** (1) Any information or records concerning
14 an individual or employer obtained by the commissioner pursuant to
15 the administration of this act shall be private and confidential,
16 except as otherwise provided in this section.

17 (2) If information provided to the commissioner by another
18 governmental agency is held private and confidential by state or
19 federal law, the commissioner may not release such information,
20 unless otherwise provided by this section.

21 (3) Information provided to the commissioner by another
22 governmental entity conditioned upon privacy and confidentiality
23 under a provision of law is to be held private and confidential
24 according to the agreement between the commissioner and the other
25 governmental agency unless otherwise provided by this section.

26 (4) If the commissioner determines to exercise his or her
27 discretion under section 4(5) of this act to establish the program by
28 using another state's auto-IRA program, establishing a joint program,
29 or a consortium with one or more other states, then the laws of the
30 state that is most protective of individual and employer
31 confidentiality shall govern.

32 (5) The commissioner may disclose information or records deemed
33 private and confidential under this chapter to any private person or
34 organization, including the trustee, and by extension, the agents of
35 any private person or organization, when the disclosure is necessary
36 to permit private contracting parties to assist in the operation,
37 management, and implementation of the program. The private person or
38 organization shall use the information or records solely for the

1 purpose for which the information was disclosed and are bound by the
2 same rules of privacy and confidentiality as the commissioner.

3 (6) An individual shall have access to all records and
4 information concerning that individual held by the commissioner
5 unless the information is exempt from disclosure under RCW 42.56.410.

6 (7) An employer shall have access to its own records relating to
7 any audit conducted or penalty assessed by the commissioner under
8 this chapter.

9 (8) No decision by the commissioner or the appeals tribunal shall
10 be deemed private and confidential under this section unless the
11 decision is based on information obtained in a closed hearing.

12 (9) Information or records deemed private and confidential under
13 this section shall be available to parties to judicial or formal
14 administrative proceedings only upon a written finding by the
15 presiding officer that the need for the information or records in the
16 proceeding outweighs any reasons for the privacy and confidentiality
17 of the information or records.

18 (10) Nothing in this chapter shall prevent the disclosure of
19 information or records deemed private and confidential under this
20 section if all details identifying an individual or employer are
21 deleted so long as the information or records cannot be foreseeably
22 combined with other publicly available information to reveal the
23 identity of an individual or employer.

24 (11)(a) All private persons, governmental agencies, and
25 organizations authorized to receive information from the commissioner
26 under this chapter have an affirmative obligation to take all
27 reasonable actions necessary to prevent the disclosure of
28 confidential information.

29 (b) The disclosure of any records or information by a private
30 person, governmental agency, or organization that obtained the
31 records or information from the commissioner under this section is
32 prohibited unless expressly permitted by this section.

33 (c) If misuse or an unauthorized disclosure of confidential
34 records or information occurs, all parties who are aware of the
35 violation must inform the commissioner immediately and must take all
36 reasonably available actions to rectify the disclosure to the
37 commissioner's standards.

38 (d) The misuse or unauthorized release of records or information
39 deemed private and confidential under this chapter by any private
40 person, governmental agency, or organization to which access is

1 permitted by this section shall subject the person, governmental
2 agency, or organization to a civil penalty of up to twenty thousand
3 dollars in the first year of the program and annually adjusted by the
4 commissioner based on changes in the United States consumer price
5 index for all urban consumers. Other applicable sanctions under state
6 and federal law also apply.

7 (e) Suit to enforce this section shall be brought by the attorney
8 general and the amount of any penalties collected shall be paid into
9 the secure choice retirement savings administrative fund established
10 in section 7 of this act. The attorney general may recover reasonable
11 attorneys' fees for any action brought to enforce this section.

12 (12) This section does not contain a rule of evidence.

13 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 12.** (1) A covered employer who fails, without
14 reasonable cause, as defined by the commissioner in rule, to
15 facilitate the enrollment of eligible employees in the program, shall
16 pay a penalty for each employee for each year or portion of a year
17 the employer failed to facilitate the enrollment of the employee. The
18 penalty shall start at two hundred fifty dollars for each employee
19 for which the employer has failed to facilitate the enrollment of the
20 employee for the first year of the program and shall be annually
21 adjusted by the commissioner based on changes in the United States
22 consumer price index for all urban consumers.

23 (2) The commissioner shall have the same rights to collect
24 penalties charged pursuant to this chapter as those contained in
25 chapter 50A.45 RCW, so long as the employer is offered the same
26 rights to appeal any order and notice of assessment as those
27 contained in chapter 50A.50 RCW. The remedies provided in chapter
28 50A.50 RCW for determining the justness or correctness of the
29 penalties charged shall be exclusive and no court shall entertain any
30 action to enjoin an assessment or require a refund or adjustment
31 except in accordance with the provisions of chapter 50A.50 RCW.

32 (3) Penalties charged pursuant to this chapter shall be deposited
33 in the secure choice retirement savings administrative fund
34 established in section 7 of this act.

35 (4) The commissioner shall not assess penalties to covered
36 employers until July 1, 2025.

37 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 13.** (1) The commissioner must develop an
38 implementation plan that details how the employment security

1 department will design, establish, operate, and market the program
2 under sections 2 through 10 of this act.

3 (2) By December 1, 2020, and in compliance with RCW 43.01.036,
4 the commissioner must submit a report to the appropriate committees
5 of the legislature describing the implementation plan.

6 (3) Beginning on December 1st of the first year after fully
7 implementing the program, the commissioner must report annually on
8 administrative fees. The report shall include:

9 (a) A financial update on the status of the secure choice
10 retirement savings administrative fund;

11 (b) The administrative fee cost basis assigned to each state
12 participating in the program;

13 (c) The uses of administrative fees; and

14 (d) A plan to reduce the administrative fee cost basis for
15 covered employees as the assets under management in the secure choice
16 retirement savings trust increase over time.

17 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 14.** RCW 43.330.730 (Finding—2015 c 296) is
18 decodified.

19 **Sec. 15.** RCW 43.330.732 and 2015 c 296 s 2 are each amended to
20 read as follows:

21 The definitions in this section apply throughout this subchapter
22 unless the context clearly requires otherwise.

23 (1) "Approved plans" means retirement plans offered by private
24 sector financial services firms that meet the requirements of this
25 chapter to participate in the marketplace.

26 (2) "Balanced fund" means a mutual fund that has an investment
27 mandate to balance its portfolio holdings. The fund generally
28 includes a mix of stocks and bonds in varying proportions according
29 to the fund's investment outlook.

30 (3) "Eligible employer" means a self-employed individual, sole
31 proprietor, or an employer with ~~((fewer than))~~ at least one
32 ~~((hundred))~~ qualified employee~~((s))~~ at the time of enrollment.

33 (4) "Enrollee" means any employee who is voluntarily enrolled in
34 an approved plan offered by an eligible employer through the
35 Washington small business retirement marketplace.

36 ~~((("myRA" means the myRA retirement program administered by
37 the United States department of the treasury that is available to all
38 employers and employees with no fees or no minimum contribution~~

1 requirements. A myRA is a Roth IRA option and investments in these
2 accounts are backed by the United States department of the treasury.

3 ~~(6)~~) "Participating employer" means any eligible employer with
4 employees enrolled in an approved plan offered through the Washington
5 small business retirement marketplace who chooses to participate in
6 the marketplace and offers approved plans to employees for voluntary
7 enrollment.

8 ~~((7))~~ (6) "Private sector financial services firms" or
9 "financial services firms" mean persons or entities licensed or
10 holding a certificate of authority and in good standing by either the
11 department of financial institutions or the office of the insurance
12 commissioner and meeting all federal laws and regulations to offer
13 retirement plans.

14 ~~((8))~~ (7) "Qualified employee" means those workers who are
15 defined by the federal internal revenue service to be eligible to
16 participate in a specific qualified plan.

17 ~~((9))~~ (8) "Target date or other similar fund" means a hybrid
18 mutual fund that automatically resets the asset mix of stocks, bonds,
19 and cash equivalents in its portfolio according to a selected time
20 frame that is appropriate for a particular investor. A target date is
21 structured to address a projected retirement date.

22 ~~((10))~~ (9) "Washington small business retirement marketplace"
23 or "marketplace" means the retirement savings program created to
24 connect eligible employers and their employees with approved plans to
25 increase retirement savings.

26 **Sec. 16.** RCW 43.330.735 and 2017 c 69 s 1 are each amended to
27 read as follows:

28 (1) The Washington small business retirement marketplace is
29 created.

30 (2) Prior to connecting any eligible employer with an approved
31 plan in the marketplace, the director shall design a plan for the
32 operation of the marketplace.

33 (3) The director shall consult with the Washington state
34 department of retirement systems, the Washington state investment
35 board, and the department of financial institutions in designing and
36 managing the marketplace.

37 (4) The director shall approve for participation in the
38 marketplace all private sector financial services firms that meet the
39 requirements of RCW 43.330.732~~((7))~~ (6).

1 (5) A range of investment options must be provided to meet the
2 needs of investors with various levels of risk tolerance and various
3 ages. The director must approve a diverse array of private retirement
4 plan options that are available to employers on a voluntary basis,
5 including but not limited to life insurance plans that are designed
6 for retirement purposes, and plans for eligible employer
7 participation such as: (a) A SIMPLE IRA-type plan that provides for
8 employer contributions to participating enrollee accounts; and (b) a
9 payroll deduction individual retirement account type plan or
10 workplace-based individual retirement accounts open to all workers in
11 which the employer does not contribute to the employees' account.

12 (6) (a) Prior to approving a plan to be offered on the
13 marketplace, the department must receive verification from the
14 department of financial institutions or the office of the insurance
15 commissioner:

16 (i) That the private sector financial services firm offering the
17 plan meets the requirements of RCW 43.330.732(~~((7))~~) (6); and

18 (ii) That the plan meets the requirements of this section
19 excluding subsection (9) of this section which is subject to federal
20 laws and regulations.

21 (b) If the plan includes either life insurance or annuity
22 products, or both, the office of the insurance commissioner may
23 request that the department of financial institutions conduct the
24 plan review as provided in (a)(ii) of this subsection prior to
25 submitting its verification to the department.

26 (c) The director may remove approved plans that no longer meet
27 the requirements of this chapter.

28 (7) The financial services firms participating in the marketplace
29 must offer a minimum of two product options: (a) A target date or
30 other similar fund, with asset allocations and maturities designed to
31 coincide with the expected date of retirement and (b) a balanced
32 fund. (~~((The marketplace must offer myRA.))~~)

33 (8) In order for the marketplace to operate, there must be at
34 least two approved plans on the marketplace; however, nothing in this
35 subsection shall be construed to limit the number of private sector
36 financial services firms with approved plans from participating in
37 the marketplace.

38 (9) Approved plans must meet federal law or regulation for
39 internal revenue service approved retirement plans.

1 (10) The approved plans must include the option for enrollees to
2 roll pretax contributions into a different individual retirement
3 account or another eligible retirement plan after ceasing
4 participation in a plan approved by the Washington small business
5 retirement marketplace.

6 (11) Financial services firms selected by the department to offer
7 approved plans on the marketplace may not charge the participating
8 employer an administrative fee and may not charge enrollees more than
9 one hundred basis points in total annual fees and must provide
10 information about their product's historical investment performance.
11 Financial services firms may charge enrollees a de minimis fee for
12 new and/or low balance accounts in amounts negotiated and agreed upon
13 by the department and financial services firms. The director shall
14 limit plans to those with total fees the director considers
15 reasonable based on all the facts and circumstances.

16 (12) Participation in the Washington small business retirement
17 marketplace is voluntary for both eligible employers and qualified
18 employees.

19 (13) Enrollment in any approved plan offered in the marketplace
20 is not an entitlement.

21 **Sec. 17.** RCW 43.79A.040 and 2019 c 448 s 10, 2019 c 363 s 21,
22 2019 c 295 s 225, 2019 c 282 s 7, 2019 c 266 s 26, and 2019 c 157 s 4
23 are each reenacted and amended to read as follows:

24 (1) Money in the treasurer's trust fund may be deposited,
25 invested, and reinvested by the state treasurer in accordance with
26 RCW 43.84.080 in the same manner and to the same extent as if the
27 money were in the state treasury, and may be commingled with moneys
28 in the state treasury for cash management and cash balance purposes.

29 (2) All income received from investment of the treasurer's trust
30 fund must be set aside in an account in the treasury trust fund to be
31 known as the investment income account.

32 (3) The investment income account may be utilized for the payment
33 of purchased banking services on behalf of treasurer's trust funds
34 including, but not limited to, depository, safekeeping, and
35 disbursement functions for the state treasurer or affected state
36 agencies. The investment income account is subject in all respects to
37 chapter 43.88 RCW, but no appropriation is required for payments to
38 financial institutions. Payments must occur prior to distribution of
39 earnings set forth in subsection (4) of this section.

1 (4) (a) Monthly, the state treasurer must distribute the earnings
2 credited to the investment income account to the state general fund
3 except under (b), (c), and (d) of this subsection.

4 (b) The following accounts and funds must receive their
5 proportionate share of earnings based upon each account's or fund's
6 average daily balance for the period: The 24/7 sobriety account, the
7 Washington promise scholarship account, the Gina Grant Bull memorial
8 legislative page scholarship account, the Washington advanced college
9 tuition payment program account, the Washington college savings
10 program account, the accessible communities account, the Washington
11 achieving a better life experience program account, the community and
12 technical college innovation account, the agricultural local fund,
13 the American Indian scholarship endowment fund, the foster care
14 scholarship endowment fund, the foster care endowed scholarship trust
15 fund, the contract harvesting revolving account, the Washington state
16 combined fund drive account, the commemorative works account, the
17 county enhanced 911 excise tax account, the county road
18 administration board emergency loan account, the toll collection
19 account, the developmental disabilities endowment trust fund, the
20 energy account, the fair fund, the family and medical leave insurance
21 account, the fish and wildlife federal lands revolving account, the
22 natural resources federal lands revolving account, the food animal
23 veterinarian conditional scholarship account, the forest health
24 revolving account, the fruit and vegetable inspection account, the
25 educator conditional scholarship account, the game farm alternative
26 account, the GET ready for math and science scholarship account, the
27 Washington global health technologies and product development
28 account, the grain inspection revolving fund, the Washington history
29 day account, the industrial insurance rainy day fund, the juvenile
30 accountability incentive account, the law enforcement officers' and
31 firefighters' plan 2 expense fund, the local tourism promotion
32 account, the low-income home rehabilitation revolving loan program
33 account, the multiagency permitting team account, the northeast
34 Washington wolf-livestock management account, the pilotage account,
35 the produce railcar pool account, the regional transportation
36 investment district account, the rural rehabilitation account, the
37 Washington sexual assault kit account, the stadium and exhibition
38 center account, the youth athletic facility account, the self-
39 insurance revolving fund, the children's trust fund, the Washington
40 horse racing commission Washington bred owners' bonus fund and

1 breeder awards account, the Washington horse racing commission class
2 C purse fund account, the individual development account program
3 account, the Washington horse racing commission operating account,
4 the life sciences discovery fund, the Washington state library-
5 archives building account, the reduced cigarette ignition propensity
6 account, the center for deaf and hard of hearing youth account, the
7 school for the blind account, the Millersylvania park trust fund, the
8 public employees' and retirees' insurance reserve fund, the school
9 employees' benefits board insurance reserve fund, the public
10 employees' and retirees' insurance account, the school employees'
11 insurance account, the long-term services and supports trust account,
12 the radiation perpetual maintenance fund, the Indian health
13 improvement reinvestment account, the secure choice retirement
14 savings administrative fund, and the library operations account.

15 (c) The following accounts and funds must receive eighty percent
16 of their proportionate share of earnings based upon each account's or
17 fund's average daily balance for the period: The advanced right-of-
18 way revolving fund, the advanced environmental mitigation revolving
19 account, the federal narcotics asset forfeitures account, the high
20 occupancy vehicle account, the local rail service assistance account,
21 and the miscellaneous transportation programs account.

22 (d) Any state agency that has independent authority over accounts
23 or funds not statutorily required to be held in the custody of the
24 state treasurer that deposits funds into a fund or account in the
25 custody of the state treasurer pursuant to an agreement with the
26 office of the state treasurer shall receive its proportionate share
27 of earnings based upon each account's or fund's average daily balance
28 for the period.

29 (5) In conformance with Article II, section 37 of the state
30 Constitution, no trust accounts or funds shall be allocated earnings
31 without the specific affirmative directive of this section.

32 **Sec. 18.** RCW 30B.04.040 and 2019 c 389 s 4 are each amended to
33 read as follows:

34 A person is exempt from the requirement of a certificate of
35 authority or approval under this title if the person is:

36 (1) An individual, sole proprietor, or general partnership or
37 joint venture composed of individuals;

38 (2) Engaging in business in Washington state (a) as a national
39 banking association or (b) as a federal mutual savings bank, federal

1 stock savings bank, or federal savings and loan association under
2 authority of the office of the comptroller of the currency;

3 (3) Acting in a manner otherwise authorized by law and within the
4 scope of authority as an agent of a trust institution with respect to
5 an activity which is not an unauthorized trust activity;

6 (4) Acting as a fiduciary solely by reason of being appointed by
7 a court to perform the duties of a trustee, guardian, conservator, or
8 receiver;

9 (5) While holding oneself out to the public as an attorney-at-
10 law, law firm, or limited license legal technician, performing a
11 service customarily performed as an attorney-at-law, law firm, or
12 limited license legal technician in a manner approved and authorized
13 by the supreme court of the state of Washington;

14 (6) Acting as an escrow agent pursuant to the escrow agent
15 registration act, chapter 18.44 RCW, or in one's capacity as an
16 authorized title agent under Title 48 RCW;

17 (7) Acting as trustee under a deed of trust delivered only as
18 security for the payment of money or for the performance of another
19 act;

20 (8) Receiving and distributing rents and proceeds of sale as a
21 licensed real estate broker on behalf of a principal in a manner
22 authorized by the Washington department of licensing;

23 (9) Engaging in a commodities or securities transaction or
24 providing an investment advisory service in the capacity of a
25 registered broker-dealer, investment ~~((adviser))~~ adviser, or
26 registered representative thereof, provided the activity is regulated
27 by the department, the United States commodities futures trading
28 commission, or the United States securities and exchange commission;

29 (10) Engaging in the sale and administration of an insurance
30 product by an insurance company or agent licensed by the office of
31 the insurance commissioner to the extent that the activity is
32 regulated by the office of the insurance commissioner;

33 (11) Acting as trustee under a voting trust as provided by
34 Washington state law;

35 (12) Acting as trustee by a public, private, or independent
36 institution of higher education or a university system authorized
37 under Washington state law, including its affiliated foundations or
38 corporations, with respect to endowment funds or other funds owned,
39 controlled, provided to, or otherwise made available to such
40 institution with respect to its educational or research purposes;

1 (13) Acting as a private trust or private trust company to the
2 extent exempt from regulation of the department as set forth in
3 chapter 30B.64 RCW; ((~~or~~))

4 (14) The trust created in section 8 of this act, or a trustee of
5 such trust; or

6 (15) Engaging in other activities expressly excluded from the
7 application of this title by rule of the director.

8 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 19.** If any part of this act is found to be in
9 conflict with federal requirements that are a prescribed condition to
10 the allocation of federal funds to the state or the eligibility of
11 employers in this state for federal unemployment tax credits, the
12 conflicting part of this act is inoperative solely to the extent of
13 the conflict, and the finding or determination does not affect the
14 operation of the remainder of this act. Rules adopted under this act
15 must meet federal requirements that are a necessary condition to the
16 receipt of federal funds by the state or the granting of federal
17 unemployment tax credits to employers in this state.

18 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 20.** Sections 2 through 13 of this act are
19 each added to chapter 43.330 RCW.

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