



2009 SENATE BILL 672

April 7, 2010 - Introduced by Senators WIRCH, COGGS, HANSEN and LEHMAN, cosponsored by Representatives PARISI, SINICKI and VAN AKKEREN. Referred to Committee on Labor, Elections and Urban Affairs.

1 **AN ACT** *to amend* 103.005 (10); and *to create* 103.06 of the statutes; **relating**
2 **to:** compliance by employers with certain laws whose enforcement depends on
3 the proper classification of persons as employees or nonemployees and
4 providing penalties.

Analysis by the Legislative Reference Bureau

Under current law, an employer engaged in the construction of roads, bridges, highways, sewers, water mains, utilities, public buildings, factories, housing, or similar construction projects (employer) who misclassifies an employee as a nonemployee willfully and with intent to evade any requirements of the laws relating to worker's compensation or unemployment insurance is subject to a \$25,000 fine for each violation.

This bill requires the Department of Workforce Development (DWD), for purposes of promoting and achieving compliance by employers with certain employment laws through the proper classification of persons performing services for an employer as employees and nonemployees, to do all of the following:

1. Educate employers, employees, nonemployees, and the public about the proper classification of persons performing services for an employer as employees and nonemployees.

2. Refer complaints of misclassification of employees as nonemployees to other state or local agencies that administer laws whose enforcement depends on the proper classification of employees and cooperate with those state or local agencies in the investigation and enforcement of those laws.

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The bill also permits DWD, for purposes of ensuring that an employer is properly classifying the persons performing services for the employer as employees and nonemployees, to investigate allegations that an employer is in violation of certain requirements under the employment laws. Those requirements (employment law requirements) are as follows:

1. That the employer is maintaining records identifying all persons performing work for the employer, including the name, address, and social security number of each of those persons.

2. That the employer is maintaining worker's compensation coverage for its employees as required under the worker's compensation law.

3. That the employer has provided to DWD the information that employers are required to provide with respect to newly hired employees.

4. That the employer is maintaining records of the hours worked by its employees, the wages paid to those employees, any deductions from those wages, and any other information that the employer is required to keep under rules promulgated by DWD relating to hours of labor and the minimum wage, and is listing deductions from wages as required under current law.

5. That the employer is in compliance with the unemployment insurance laws.

If DWD determines that an employer has failed to demonstrate compliance with the employment law requirements, DWD may serve on the employer a notice of DWD's intent to issue an order requiring the employer to stop work (stop work order) at the locations specified in the notice. The notice must advise the employer that the stop work order will be issued within three business days after the date of the notice unless the employer provides information satisfactory to DWD indicating that the employer is in compliance with the employment law requirements at each location specified in the notice.

If within three business days after service of the notice an employer does not demonstrate compliance with the employment law requirements, DWD may serve a stop work order on the employer, which takes effect as provided in the order unless the employer appeals the order by requesting a hearing to review the stop work order, in which case the stop work order is automatically stayed until the date on which a decision on the appeal is issued. An employer that does not stop work as required under a stop work order may be required to forfeit \$250 for each day beginning on the day on which the stop work order is served and ending on the day on which the employer provides evidence satisfactory to DWD that it has stopped work or is in compliance with the employment law requirements, whichever occurs first. The stop work order remains in effect until the employer provides evidence satisfactory to DWD that it is in compliance with the employment law requirements and pays the forfeiture required under the bill.

A request for a hearing to review a stop work order must be filed within ten days after service of the order. If a request for a hearing is filed within those ten days, an appeal tribunal, which is an attorney licensed to practice in this state who is appointed by DWD to conduct review hearings, must hold the hearing within 14 days after receipt of the request and issue a decision in writing within seven days after the hearing affirming, reversing, or modifying the order to stop work and forfeiture.

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If the appeal tribunal finds that the employer has not complied with the employment law requirements, the automatic stay of the stop work order is lifted and the order remains in effect until the employer provides evidence satisfactory to DWD that the employer is in compliance with the employment law requirements and pays the forfeiture.

The employer or DWD may request a review of an appeal tribunal's decision by petitioning the Labor and Industry Review Commission (LIRC) for review of the decision within 21 days after the decision was mailed to the employer's last-known address and may commence an action for the judicial review of a decision of LIRC within 30 days after the decision was mailed to the employer's last-known address. A stop work order that is in effect remains in effect during the pendency of a review by LIRC or an action for judicial review. An employer that violates a final stop work order of DWD or final decision of an appeal tribunal, LIRC, or a court affirming such an order is subject to a forfeiture of \$1,000 for each day of violation. An employer may seek review of a forfeiture imposed for a violation of a final stop work order or final decision affirming such an order in the same manner as an initial stop work order is reviewed under the bill.

Finally, the bill provides that an investigation, order, or decision under the bill does not preclude or otherwise impair or affect any other action that is required or permitted under the employment laws of this state to enforce a requirement under any of those laws.

For further information see the *state* 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:

1 **SECTION 1.** 103.005 (10) of the statutes, as affected by 2009 Wisconsin Act 3,
2 is amended to read:

3 103.005 (10) Except as provided in ss. 103.06 (5) (d), 103.275 (2) (bm) and (br),
4 103.34 (10) (b) and (c), 103.91 (4) (b) and (c), 103.92 (6) and (7), 104.07 (5) and (6), and
5 105.13 (2) and (3), orders of the department under chs. 103 to 106 shall be subject to
6 review in the manner provided in ch. 227.

7 **SECTION 2.** 103.06 of the statutes is created to read:

8 **103.06 Worker classification compliance. (1) DEFINITIONS.** In this section:

9 (a) "Business day" means any day on which the offices of the department are
10 open.

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1 (b) “Employee” means any of the following who is employed by an employer:

2 1. For purposes of compliance with the requirement specified in sub. (3) (a) 1.,
3 an employee, as defined in s. 103.001 (5).

4 2. For purposes of compliance with the requirement specified in sub. (3) (a) 2.,
5 an employee, as defined in s. 102.07.

6 3. For purposes of compliance with the requirement specified in sub. (3) (a) 3.,
7 an employee, as defined in rules promulgated under s. 103.05.

8 4. For purposes of maintaining records under sub. (3) (a) 4. as required under
9 rules promulgated under s. 103.02, an employee, as defined in s. 103.001 (5).

10 5. For purposes of maintaining records under sub. (3) (a) 4. as required under
11 rules promulgated under s. 104.04, an employee, as defined in s. 104.01 (2).

12 6. For purposes of listing deductions from wages under sub. (3) (a) 4. as required
13 under s. 103.457, an employee, as defined in s. 103.001 (5).

14 7. For purposes of compliance with the requirement specified in sub. (3) (a) 5.,
15 an employee, as defined in s. 108.02 (12).

16 (c) “Employer” means any of the following that is engaged in the work described
17 in s. 108.18 (2) (c):

18 1. For purposes of compliance with the requirement specified in sub. (3) (a) 1.,
19 an employer, as defined in s. 103.001 (6).

20 2. For purposes of compliance with the requirement specified in sub. (3) (a) 2.,
21 an employer, as defined in s. 102.04.

22 3. For purposes of compliance with the requirement specified in sub. (3) (a) 3.,
23 an employer, as defined in rules promulgated under s. 103.05.

24 4. For purposes of maintaining records under sub. (3) (a) 4. as required under
25 rules promulgated under s. 103.02, an employer, as defined in s. 103.01 (1).

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1 5. For purposes of maintaining records under sub. (3) (a) 4. as required under
2 rules promulgated under s. 104.04, an employer, as defined in s. 104.01 (3).

3 6. For purposes of listing deductions from wages under sub. (3) (a) 4. as required
4 under s. 103.457, an employer, as defined in s. 103.001 (6).

5 7. For purposes of compliance with the requirement specified in sub. (3) (a) 5.,
6 an employer, as defined in s. 108.02 (13).

7 **(2) WORKER CLASSIFICATION COMPLIANCE; DUTIES OF DEPARTMENT.** For purposes of
8 promoting and achieving compliance by employers with the laws specified in sub. (3)
9 (a) through the proper classification of persons performing services for an employer
10 as employees and nonemployees, the department shall do all of the following:

11 (a) Educate employers, employees, nonemployees, and the public about the
12 proper classification of persons performing services for an employer as employees
13 and nonemployees.

14 (b) Receive and investigate complaints alleging violations of the requirements
15 specified in sub. (3) (a), or investigate any such alleged violations on its own
16 initiative, and, if the department finds that an employer is in violation of a
17 requirement specified in sub. (3) (a), order the employer to stop work and pay a
18 forfeiture as provided under sub. (5).

19 (c) Refer complaints of misclassification of employees as nonemployees to other
20 state or local agencies that administer laws whose enforcement depends on the
21 proper classification of employees.

22 (d) Cooperate with other state or local agencies in the investigation and
23 enforcement of laws whose enforcement depends on the proper classification of
24 employees.

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1 (e) Appoint attorneys licensed to practice in this state as appeal tribunals to
2 conduct hearings and issue decisions under sub. (6) (b).

3 **(3) COMPLIANCE REQUIREMENTS.** (a) For purposes of ensuring that an employer
4 is properly classifying the persons performing services for the employer as employees
5 and nonemployees, the department may require an employer to prove all of the
6 following:

7 1. That the employer is maintaining records identifying all persons performing
8 work for the employer, including the name, address, and social security number of
9 each of those persons.

10 2. That the employer is maintaining worker's compensation coverage for its
11 employees as required under s. 102.28 (2).

12 3. That the employer has provided to the department the information required
13 under s. 103.05 with respect to each newly hired employee of the employer.

14 4. That the employer is maintaining records of the hours worked by its
15 employees, the wages paid to those employees, any deductions from those wages, and
16 any other information that the employer is required to keep under rules promulgated
17 under s. 103.02 or 104.04, and is listing deductions from wages as required under s.
18 103.457.

19 5. That the employer is in compliance with ch. 108.

20 (b) Any agreement between an employer and employee purporting to waive or
21 modify any requirement under par. (a) is void.

22 **(4) COMPLIANCE INVESTIGATIONS.** (a) The department may conduct
23 investigations to ensure compliance with the requirements specified in sub. (3) (a).

24 In conducting an investigation, the department may do any of the following:

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1 1. Enter and inspect any place of business or place of employment and examine
2 and copy any records that the employer is required to keep under rules promulgated
3 under s. 103.02 or 104.04; any books, registers, payroll records, records of wage
4 withholdings, records of work activity and hours of work, and records or indicia of the
5 employment status of persons performing work for the employer; and any other
6 records relating to compliance with the requirements specified in sub. (3) (a).

7 2. Determine the identity and activities of any person performing work at any
8 location where the work described in s. 108.18 (2) (c) is being performed.

9 3. Interview and obtain statements in writing from any employer or person
10 performing work or present at any location where the work described in s. 108.18 (2)
11 (c) is being performed with respect to the names and addresses of persons performing
12 work for the employer, the payment of wages to and hours worked by those persons,
13 and any other information relating to the remuneration of those persons and the
14 nature and extent of services performed by those persons.

15 (b) The department may conduct the activities under par. (a) 1. to 3. at any
16 location where the work described in s. 108.18 (2) (c) is performed by or for an
17 employer. In addition, the department may conduct the activities specified under
18 par. (a) 1. at any other location where the records specified in par. (a) 1. are
19 maintained by an employer or an agent of an employer.

20 (c) If in the course of an investigation of an employer the department
21 determines that there is reason to believe that the employer is not the prime
22 contractor of the work being performed by or for the employer, the department shall
23 seek to determine the identity of the prime contractor. If the department identifies
24 any person other than the employer that it believes to be the prime contractor of the
25 work being performed, the department, for informational purposes, shall serve on

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1 that person copies of any notices or orders served on the employer under sub. (5) with
2 respect to the work. Failure of the department to serve a copy of a notice or order
3 under sub. (5) on a person believed to be a prime contractor does not relieve the
4 employer from any liability arising out of the notice or order or impair the
5 department from pursuing any remedy relating to the notice or order.

6 **(5) STOP WORK ORDERS AND CIVIL PENALTIES.** (a) If after an investigation under
7 sub. (4) the department determines that an employer has failed to demonstrate
8 compliance with any of the requirements specified in sub. (3) (a), the department
9 may serve on the employer a notice of the department's intent to issue an order
10 requiring the employer to stop work at the locations specified in the notice. The
11 notice shall advise the employer that the order will be issued within 3 business days
12 after the date of the notice unless within those 3 business days the employer provides
13 information satisfactory to the department indicating that the employer is in
14 compliance with the requirements specified in sub. (3) (a) at each location specified
15 in the notice.

16 (b) If within 3 business days after service of a notice under par. (a) an employer
17 does not demonstrate compliance with the requirements listed under sub. (3) (a) with
18 respect to a location specified in the notice, the department may serve an order on
19 the employer requiring the employer to stop work at the locations specified in the
20 order. The order shall advise the employer that the employer may request a hearing
21 on the order under sub. (6) (a), describe how the employer may request a hearing, and
22 be accompanied by a form for requesting a hearing. The order shall take effect as
23 provided in the order and shall remain in effect until the employer provides evidence
24 satisfactory to the department that it is in compliance with the requirements under
25 sub. (3) (a) and pays the forfeiture under par. (c).

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1 (c) An employer that does not stop work as required under an order under par.
2 (b) may be required to forfeit \$250 for each day beginning on the day on which the
3 order is served and ending on the day on which the employer provides evidence
4 satisfactory to the department that it has stopped work as required under the order
5 or is in compliance with sub. (3) (a), whichever occurs first.

6 (d) An order under this subsection is final unless appealed under sub. (6). An
7 order under this subsection is subject to review only as provided in sub. (6) and not
8 as provided in ch. 227.

9 **(6) APPEAL OF STOP WORK ORDER AND CIVIL PENALTY.** (a) Any employer that is
10 aggrieved by an order to stop work under sub. (5) (b) may appeal the order by filing
11 with the department a written request for a hearing to review the order within 10
12 days after service of the order. If a request for a hearing is filed within those 10 days,
13 the department shall hold the hearing within 14 days after receipt of the request.
14 The order to stop work shall be automatically stayed from the filing of the request
15 for a hearing until the date on which a decision on the appeal is issued under par. (b).
16 Notwithstanding the stay of the order to stop work, the forfeiture under sub. (5) (c)
17 shall continue to accrue as provided in sub. (5) (c).

18 (b) 1. The hearing shall be held before an appeal tribunal and shall be
19 conducted in the manner described in s. 108.09 (5). Within 7 days after the hearing,
20 the appeal tribunal shall issue a decision in writing affirming, reversing, or
21 modifying the order to stop work and forfeiture.

22 2. If the appeal tribunal finds that the employer has at all times been in
23 compliance with the requirements specified in sub. (3) (a), the appeal tribunal shall
24 reverse the order to stop work and forfeiture.

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1 3. If the appeal tribunal finds that the employer has not complied with the
2 requirements specified in sub. (3) (a), the automatic stay under par. (a) shall be lifted
3 and the order to stop work shall remain in effect until the employer provides evidence
4 satisfactory to the department that the employer is in compliance with the
5 requirements specified in sub. (3) (a) and pays the forfeiture under sub. (5) (c).

6 4. A decision of an appeal tribunal under this paragraph is final unless a review
7 of the decision is requested under par. (c). A decision of an appeal tribunal under this
8 paragraph is subject to review only as provided in par. (c) and not as provided in ch.
9 227.

10 (c) The employer or the department may request a review of an appeal
11 tribunal's decision by petitioning the commission for review of the decision within 21
12 days after the decision was mailed to the employer's last-known address. The
13 commission shall conduct the review in the manner described in s. 108.09 (6). An
14 order to stop work that is in effect under par. (b) 3. shall remain in effect as provided
15 in par. (b) 3. during the pendency of a review under this paragraph. A decision of the
16 commission under this paragraph is final and the provisions of s. 108.10 (6) and (7)
17 shall apply to the decision unless judicial review of the decision is requested under
18 par. (d). A decision of the commission under this paragraph is subject to judicial
19 review only as provided in par. (d) and not as provided in ch. 227.

20 (d) The employer or the department may commence an action for the judicial
21 review of a decision of the commission under par. (c) within 30 days after the decision
22 was mailed to the employer's last-known address. The scope of judicial review under
23 this paragraph, and the manner of that review insofar as is applicable, shall be the
24 same as that provided in s. 108.09 (7). An order to stop work that is in effect under

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1 par. (b) 3. shall remain in effect as provided in par. (b) 3. during the pendency of a
2 review under this paragraph.

3 (e) In addition to any forfeiture for which the employer may be liable under sub.
4 (5) (c) and any other penalty for which the employer may be liable for a violation of
5 a requirement specified in sub. (3) (a), any employer that violates a final order to stop
6 work of the department under sub. (5) (b) or final decision of an appeal tribunal, the
7 commission, or a court affirming such an order under par. (b), (c), or (d) is subject to
8 a forfeiture of \$1,000 for each day of violation. An employer may seek review of a
9 forfeiture imposed under this paragraph in the same manner as an order to stop work
10 is reviewed under pars. (a) to (d).

11 **(7) OTHER ENFORCEMENT ACTION NOT PRECLUDED.** An investigation, order, or
12 decision under sub. (4), (5), or (6) does not preclude or otherwise impair or affect any
13 other action that is required or permitted to enforce a requirement under this
14 chapter or under ch. 101, 102, 104, 108, 109, or 111, including any investigation,
15 order, or decision; any civil or criminal action or administrative proceeding; or any
16 obligation for any payment, reimbursement, assessment, surcharge, forfeiture, or
17 other remedy or penalty under any of those chapters.

18 **(8) RECOVERY OF UNPAID FORFEITURES.** (a) If an employer fails to pay a forfeiture
19 imposed under sub. (5) (c) or (6) (e), the department has a perfected lien upon the
20 employer's right, title, and interest in all of its real and personal property located in
21 this state in the amount finally determined to be owed, plus costs. Except when
22 creation of a lien is barred or stayed by bankruptcy or other insolvency law, the lien
23 is effective when the stop work order or decision affirming the stop work order
24 becomes final and shall continue until the amount owed, plus costs and interest to
25 the date of payment, is paid. The employer shall pay interest on the amount owed

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1 at the rate of 1 percent per month or fraction of a month from the date on which the
2 amount became due. If a lien is initially barred or stayed by bankruptcy or other
3 insolvency law, the lien shall become effective immediately upon expiration or
4 removal of the bar or stay. The perfected lien does not give the department priority
5 over any lienholders, mortgagees, purchasers for value, judgment creditors, or
6 pledges whose interests have been recorded before the lien of the department is
7 recorded.

8 (b) 1. If an employer fails to pay to the department any amount found to be due
9 the department in proceedings under this section and if no proceeding for review is
10 pending and the time for taking an appeal or review has expired, the department or
11 any authorized representative of the department may issue a warrant directed to the
12 clerk of circuit court for any county of the state. The clerk of circuit court shall enter
13 in the judgment and lien docket the name of the employer mentioned in the warrant
14 and the amount of the forfeiture, interest, costs, and other fees for which the warrant
15 is issued and the date when the warrant is entered. A warrant so entered shall be
16 considered in all respects to be a final judgment constituting a perfected lien upon
17 the employer's right, title, and interest in all real and personal property located in
18 the county where the warrant is entered. The lien is effective when the department
19 issues the warrant and shall continue until the amount owed, including interest,
20 costs, and other fees to the date of payment, is paid. After a warrant is entered in
21 the judgment and lien docket, the department or any authorized representative of
22 the department may file an execution with the clerk of circuit court for filing by the
23 clerk of circuit court with the sheriff of any county where real or personal property
24 of the employer is found, commanding the sheriff to levy upon and sell sufficient real
25 and personal property of the employer to pay the amount stated in the warrant in

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1 the same manner as upon an execution against property issued upon the judgment
2 of a court of record, and to return the warrant of the department and pay to the
3 department the money collected by virtue of the execution within 60 days after
4 receipt of the warrant.

5 2. The clerk of circuit court shall accept, file, and enter each warrant,
6 satisfaction, release, or withdrawal under this subsection in the judgment and lien
7 docket without prepayment of any fee, but the clerk of circuit court shall submit a
8 statement of the proper fee semiannually to the department covering the period from
9 January 1 to June 30 and July 1 to December 31 unless a different billing period is
10 agreed to between the clerk of circuit court and the department. The fees shall then
11 be paid by the department, but the fees provided by s. 814.61 (5) for entering the
12 warrants shall be added to the amount of the warrant and collected from the
13 employer when satisfaction or release is presented for entry.

14 (c) When the penalties set forth in a warrant together with interest and other
15 fees to the date of payment and all costs due the department have been paid to the
16 department, the department shall issue a satisfaction of the warrant and file that
17 satisfaction with the clerk of circuit court. The clerk of circuit court shall
18 immediately enter a satisfaction of the judgment on the judgment and lien docket.
19 The department shall send a copy of the satisfaction to the employer.

20 (d) If the department finds that the interests of the state will not be jeopardized,
21 the department, upon such conditions as it may exact, may issue a release of any
22 warrant with respect to any real or personal property upon which the warrant is a
23 lien or color upon title. The clerk of the circuit court shall enter the release upon
24 presentation of the release to the clerk and payment of the fee for filing the release

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1 and the release shall be conclusive proof that the lien or cloud upon the title of the
2 property covered by the release is extinguished.

3 (e) If the department issues an erroneous warrant, the department shall issue
4 a notice of withdrawal of the warrant to the clerk of circuit court for the county in
5 which the warrant is filed. The clerk shall void the warrant and any liens attached
6 by the warrant.

7 **(9) LEVY FOR DELINQUENT FORFEITURES.** If any employer who is liable for any
8 forfeiture under sub. (5) (c) or (6) (e) neglects or refuses to pay that forfeiture after
9 the department has made demand for payment, the department may collect that
10 forfeiture and expenses of the levy by levy upon any property belonging to the
11 employer. Section 108.225 applies to a levy under this subsection except as follows:

12 (a) For purposes of a levy under this subsection, “debt” as used in s. 108.225
13 means a delinquent forfeiture under sub. (5) (c) or (6) (e) or any liability of a 3rd party
14 for failure to surrender to the department property or rights to property subject to
15 levy after proceedings under ss. 108.10 and 108.225 to determine that liability.

16 (b) Section 108.225 (16) (a) and not s. 108.225 (16) (am) applies to a levy under
17 this subsection.

18 **SECTION 3. Effective date.**

19 (1) **WORKER CLASSIFICATION COMPLIANCE.** This act takes effect on January 1,
20 2011.

21 (END)