

One Hundred Ninth Legislature - First Session - 2025

Introducer's Statement of Intent

LB578

Chairperson: Senator Carolyn Bosn

Committee: Judiciary

Date of Hearing: March 12, 2025

The following constitutes the reasons for this bill and the purposes which are sought to be accomplished thereby:

LB 578 would mandate that incarcerated individuals employed by a city, county or any other person be paid at least minimum wage for their labor. Jail Standards Board and Department of Correction is given authority to promulgate regulations on wages and working conditions. Wages would go into an account for the inmate. After payments are made for restitution orders, the inmate would be responsible for the expenditure of the remaining amount in the account. Upon release of the inmate the remaining account is transferred to the inmate.

LB 578 removes current statutory authority for a portion of the inmate's wages to go to the Victim's Compensation Fund and reimbursement to the state for damage or loss of property, or injuries and other damages caused by the inmate.

LB 578 mandates jails and the Department of Corrections operate by OSHA standards even though they are otherwise exempt from those standards.

Principal Introducer: _____

Senator Machaela Cavanaugh