

HOUSE RESEARCH

Bill Summary

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Subject: Public Safety Radio Communications Operators

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Section

- 1** **Essential employee** . Designates state employees who are public safety radio communications operators as "essential" employees for purposes of the Public Employment Labor Relations Act (PELRA). Essential employees do not have the right to strike. At the request of the employer or the exclusive representative, impasses in bargaining are resolved through arbitration.
- 2** **Bargaining unit**. Creates a new state bargaining unit, containing the employees who are designated essential employees under the previous section.
- 3** **Transition**. Requires the commissioner of mediation services to assign job classifications and positions to the new bargaining unit. Provides for current terms and conditions of employment to remain in effect pending negotiations on a successor agreement. Provides for the current exclusive representative to remain in place.
- 4** **Effective date**. Effective July 1, 2003.