

**RCW 50.01.010 Preamble.** Whereas, economic insecurity due to unemployment is a serious menace to the health, morals, and welfare of the people of this state; involuntary unemployment is, therefore, a subject of general interest and concern which requires appropriate action by the legislature to prevent its spread and to lighten its burden which now so often falls with crushing force upon the unemployed worker and his or her family. Social security requires protection against this greatest hazard of our economic life. This can be provided only by application of the insurance principle of sharing the risks, and by the systematic accumulation of funds during periods of employment to provide benefits for periods of unemployment, thus maintaining purchasing powers and limiting the serious social consequences of relief assistance. The state of Washington, therefore, exercising herein its police and sovereign power endeavors by this title to remedy any widespread unemployment situation which may occur and to set up safeguards to prevent its recurrence in the years to come. The legislature, therefore, declares that in its considered judgment the public good, and the general welfare of the citizens of this state require the enactment of this measure, under the police powers of the state, for the compulsory setting aside of unemployment reserves to be used for the benefit of persons unemployed through no fault of their own, and that this title shall be liberally construed for the purpose of reducing involuntary unemployment and the suffering caused thereby to the minimum. [2010 c 8 § 13001; 2005 c 133 § 2; 2003 2nd sp.s. c 4 § 1; 1945 c 35 § 2; Rem. Supp. 1945 § 9998-141. Prior: 1937 c 162 § 2.]

**Findings—Intent—Conflict with federal requirements—Effective date—2005 c 133:** See notes following RCW 50.20.120.

**Additional employees authorized—2005 c 133:** "To establish additional capacity within the employment security department, the department is authorized to add two full-time equivalent employees to develop economic models for estimating the impacts of policy changes on the unemployment insurance system and the unemployment trust fund." [2005 c 133 § 8.]

**Conflict with federal requirements—2003 2nd sp.s. c 4:** "If any part of this act is found to be in conflict with federal requirements that are a prescribed condition to the allocation of federal funds to the state or the eligibility of employers in this state for federal unemployment tax credits, the conflicting part of this act is inoperative solely to the extent of the conflict, and the finding or determination does not affect the operation of the remainder of this act. Rules adopted under this act must meet federal requirements that are a necessary condition to the receipt of federal funds by the state or the granting of federal unemployment tax credits to employers in this state." [2003 2nd sp.s. c 4 § 36.]

**Severability—2003 2nd sp.s. c 4:** "If any provision of this act or its application to any person or circumstance is held invalid, the remainder of the act or the application of the provision to other persons or circumstances is not affected." [2003 2nd sp.s. c 4 § 37.]

**Effective date—2003 2nd sp.s. c 4:** "This act is necessary for the immediate preservation of the public peace, health, or safety, or

support of the state government and its existing public institutions,  
and takes effect immediately [June 20, 2003]." [2003 2nd sp.s. c 4 §  
39.]