

A large sculpture of a whale breaching the water, set against a backdrop of a forested mountain and a town. The whale is captured in mid-leap, with its tail fluke raised high and water splashing around its body. The background features a lush green forested mountain on the left and a snow-capped mountain on the right, with a small town visible in the valley between them. The sky is clear and blue.

# Unemployment Benefits & Senate Bill 217 Modeling

**Senate Labor and Commerce  
Committee**

March 23, 2026

**Presenters: Paloma Harbour, Division Director  
and Lennon Weller, Economist**

# Senate Bill (SB) 217 Recap

- December 2025 Unemployment Insurance (UI) Trust Fund balance was \$250 million more than the statutory target solvency range.
- Minimum UI Tax Rates are far exceeding calculated rates to cover costs and maintain solvency.

(13) Average Employer Tax Rate: $(0.73 \times \text{ABCR} \times \text{Exp.Factor}) + \text{TFSA} = (0.73 \times \#8 \times 1.00) + \#12$	-0.06 %
(14) Average Employee Tax Rate: $(0.27 \times \text{ABCR}) = (0.27 \times \#8)$	0.12 %

- Workforce and training demands are exceeding current capacity.

ABCR = Average Benefit Cost Rate

TFSA = Trust Fund Solvency Adjustment

# SB217 Employer Savings by Industry

<b>Industry/Category</b>	<b>SFY2025 Taxable Wages</b>	<b>Current 1% Minimum</b>	<b>SB217 0.4% Minimum</b>	<b>Savings</b>
Agriculture	\$ 63,919,091	\$ 639,191	\$ 255,676	\$ 383,515
Mining (includes Oil & Gas)	\$ 834,488,064	\$ 8,344,881	\$ 3,337,952	\$ 5,006,928
Utilities	\$ 134,906,725	\$ 1,349,067	\$ 539,627	\$ 809,440
Construction	\$ 1,212,554,451	\$ 12,125,545	\$ 4,850,218	\$ 7,275,327
Manufacturing (includes Seafood Processing)	\$ 633,075,216	\$ 6,330,752	\$ 2,532,301	\$ 3,798,451
Wholesale Trade	\$ 310,371,803	\$ 3,103,718	\$ 1,241,487	\$ 1,862,231
Retail Trade	\$ 1,178,947,310	\$ 11,789,473	\$ 4,715,789	\$ 7,073,684
Transportation & Warehousing	\$ 1,095,424,209	\$ 10,954,242	\$ 4,381,697	\$ 6,572,545
Information	\$ 205,153,649	\$ 2,051,536	\$ 820,615	\$ 1,230,922
Finances & Insurance	\$ 294,656,191	\$ 2,946,562	\$ 1,178,625	\$ 1,767,937
Real Estate	\$ 197,513,104	\$ 1,975,131	\$ 790,052	\$ 1,185,079
Professional & Technical	\$ 660,874,042	\$ 6,608,740	\$ 2,643,496	\$ 3,965,244



# SB217 Employer Savings by Industry, continued

<b>Industry/Category</b>	<b>SFY2025 Taxable Wages</b>	<b>Current 1% Minimum</b>	<b>SB217 0.4% Minimum</b>	<b>Savings</b>
Management of Companies	\$ 180,252,095	\$ 1,802,521	\$ 721,008	\$ 1,081,513
Administrative & Waste Services	\$ 545,553,885	\$ 5,455,539	\$ 2,182,216	\$ 3,273,323
Educational Services	\$ 76,777,781	\$ 767,778	\$ 307,111	\$ 460,667
Health Care & Social Services	\$ 1,320,043,449	\$ 13,200,434	\$ 5,280,174	\$ 7,920,261
Arts, Entertainment & Recreation	\$ 145,698,758	\$ 1,456,988	\$ 582,795	\$ 874,193
Accommodations & Food	\$ 968,825,925	\$ 9,688,259	\$ 3,875,304	\$ 5,812,956
Other Services, except Public Administration	\$ 402,865,289	\$ 4,028,653	\$ 1,611,461	\$ 2,417,192
Unclassified	\$ 23,435,815	\$ 234,358	\$ 93,743	\$ 140,615
State Government	\$ 12,838,286	\$ 128,383	\$ 51,353	\$ 77,030
Local Government	\$ 354,682,409	\$ 3,546,824	\$ 1,418,730	\$ 2,128,094
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$ 10,852,857,547</b>	<b>\$ 108,528,575</b>	<b>\$ 43,411,430</b>	<b>\$ 65,117,145</b>

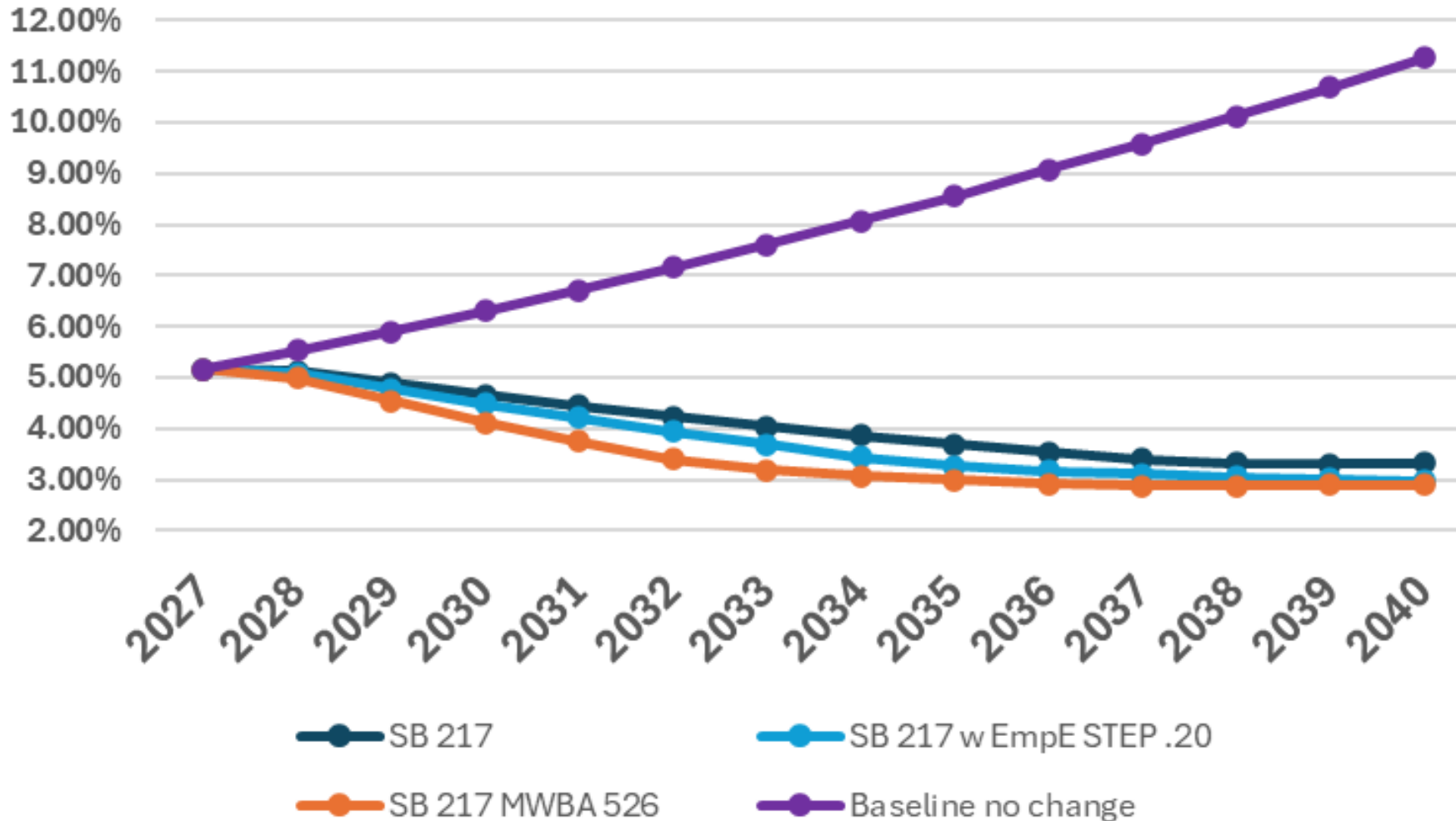
# Current Unemployment Benefits Schedule

	Base Period Wages		Weekly Benefit
	At Least	But Less Than	Amount
	\$ -	\$ 2,500	\$ -
Minimum	\$ 2,500	\$ 2,750	\$ 56
	\$ 2,750	\$ 3,000	\$ 58
	\$ 3,000	\$ 3,250	\$ 60
	\$ 3,250	\$ 3,500	\$ 62
	\$ 3,500	\$ 3,750	\$ 64
	...	...	...
	\$ 40,750	\$ 41,000	\$ 362
	\$ 41,000	\$ 41,250	\$ 364
	\$ 41,250	\$ 41,500	\$ 366
	\$ 41,500	\$ 41,750	\$ 368
	\$ 41,750	\$ 42,000	\$ 370
Maximum	\$ 42,000		\$ 370

# Inflation Adjusted Unemployment Benefits Schedule

	Base Period Wages		Weekly Benefit
	At Least	But Less Than	Amount
Current Max	\$ 41,750	\$ 42,000	\$ 370
	\$ 42,000	\$ 42,250	\$ 372
	\$ 42,250	\$ 42,500	\$ 374
	\$ 42,500	\$ 42,750	\$ 376
	\$ 42,750	\$ 43,000	\$ 378
	\$ 43,000	\$ 43,250	\$ 380
	...	...	...
	\$ 60,250	\$ 60,500	\$ 518
	\$ 60,500	\$ 60,750	\$ 520
	\$ 60,750	\$ 61,000	\$ 522
	\$ 61,000	\$ 61,250	\$ 524
	\$ 61,250	\$ 61,500	\$ 526
Adjusted Max	\$ 61,500		\$ 526

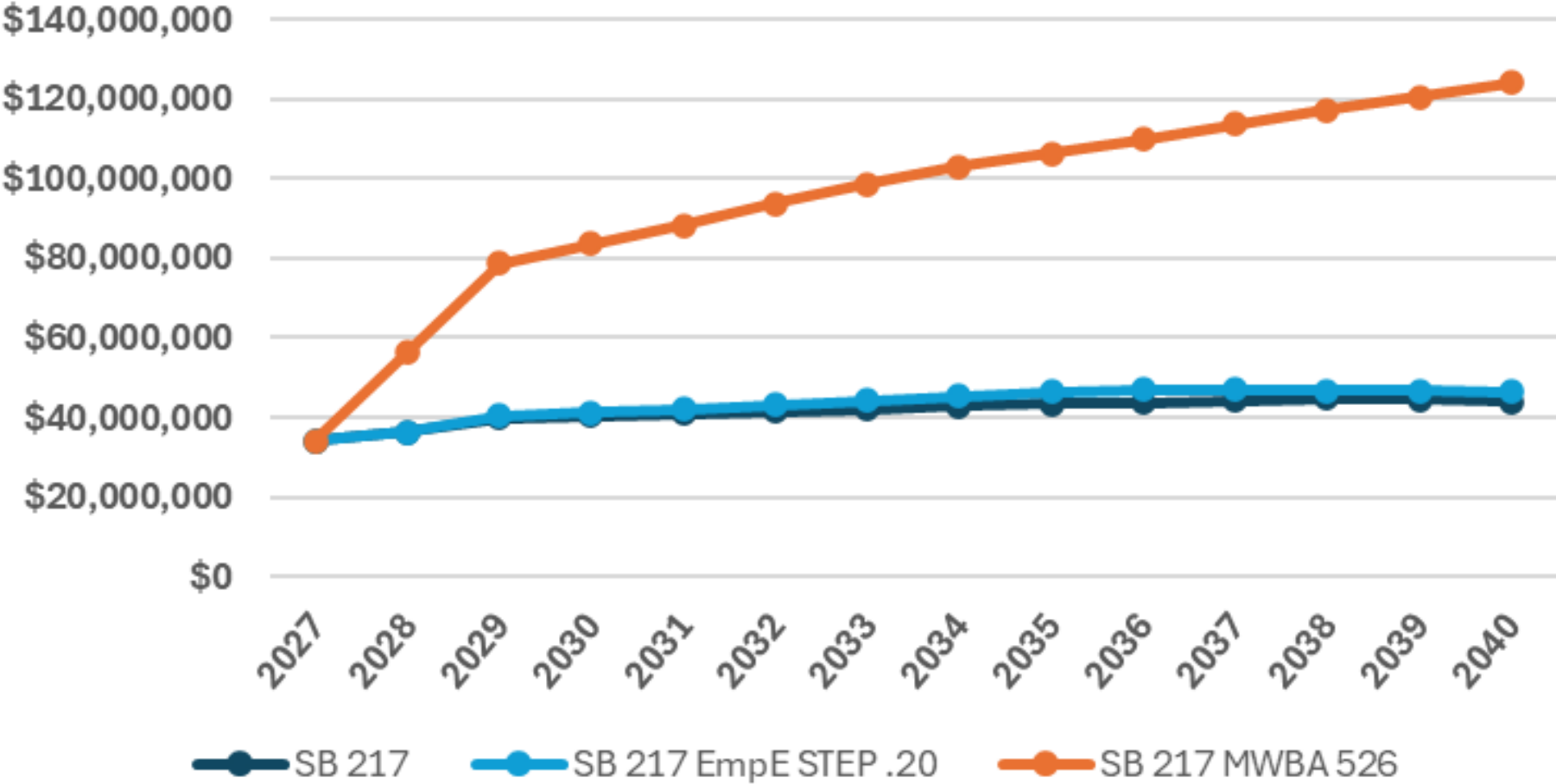
# UI Trust Fund Reserve Ratio Projections



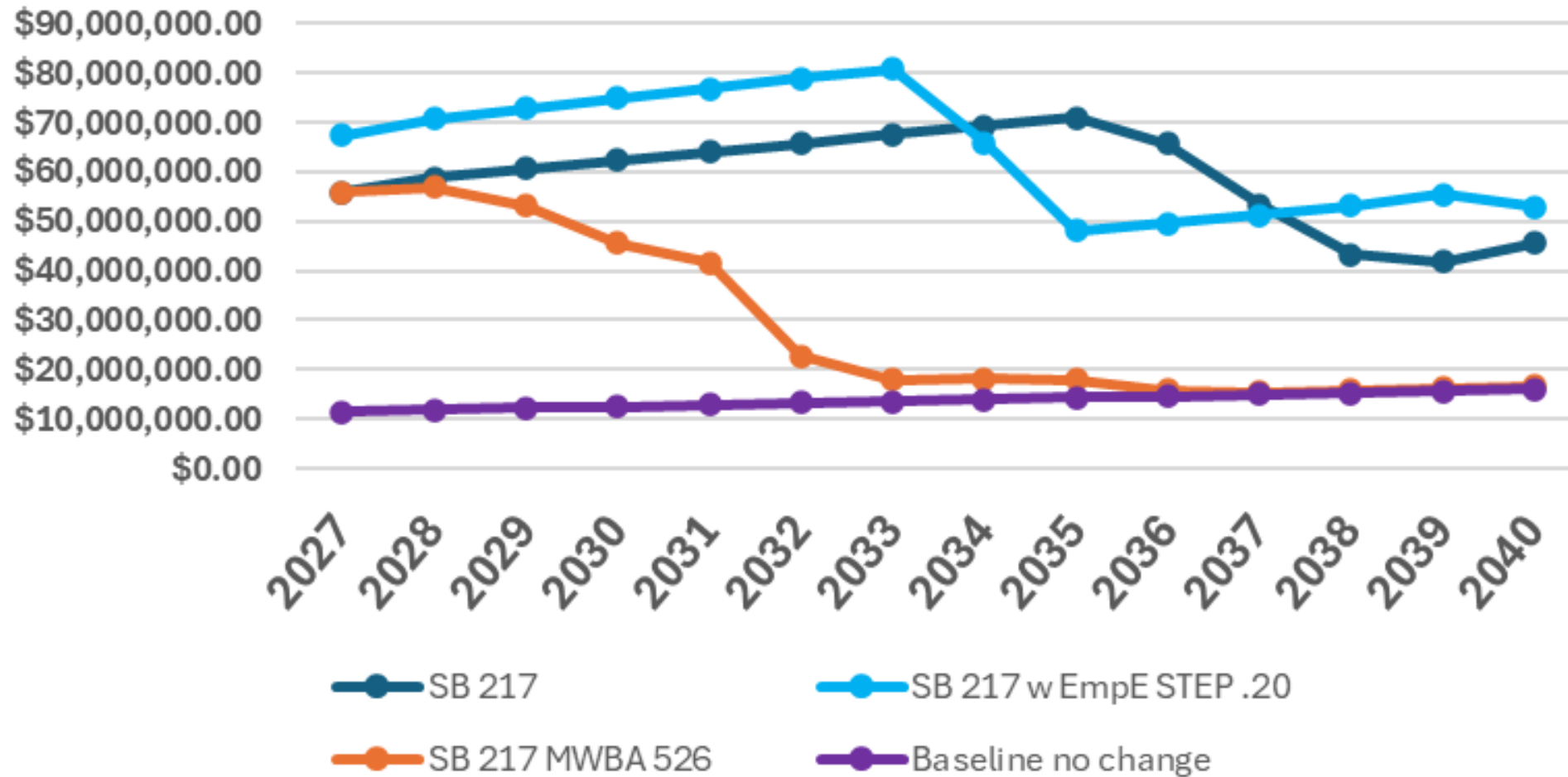
MWBA = Maximum Weekly Benefit Amount  
EmpE = Employee



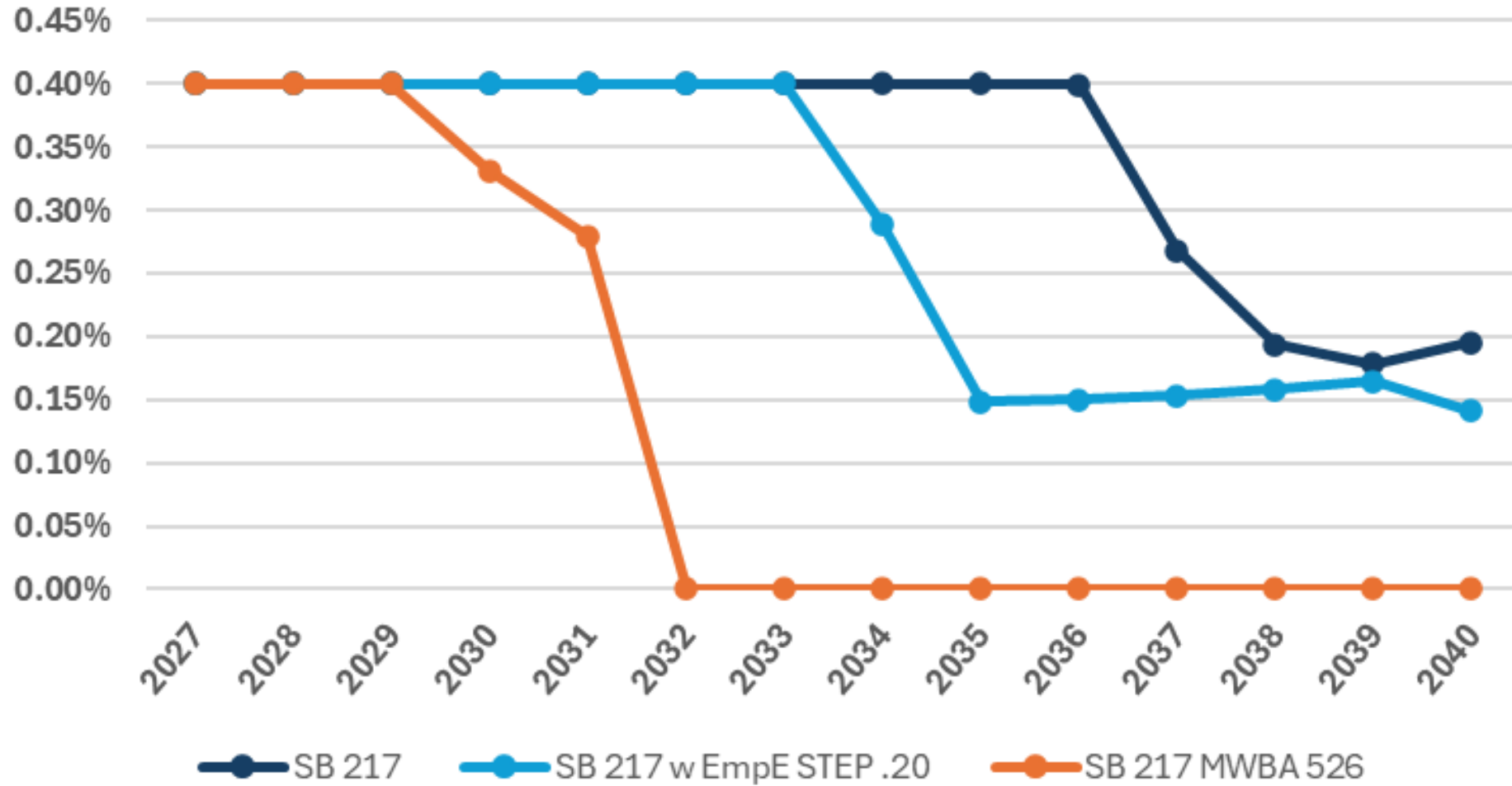
# Unemployment Benefit Cost Projections



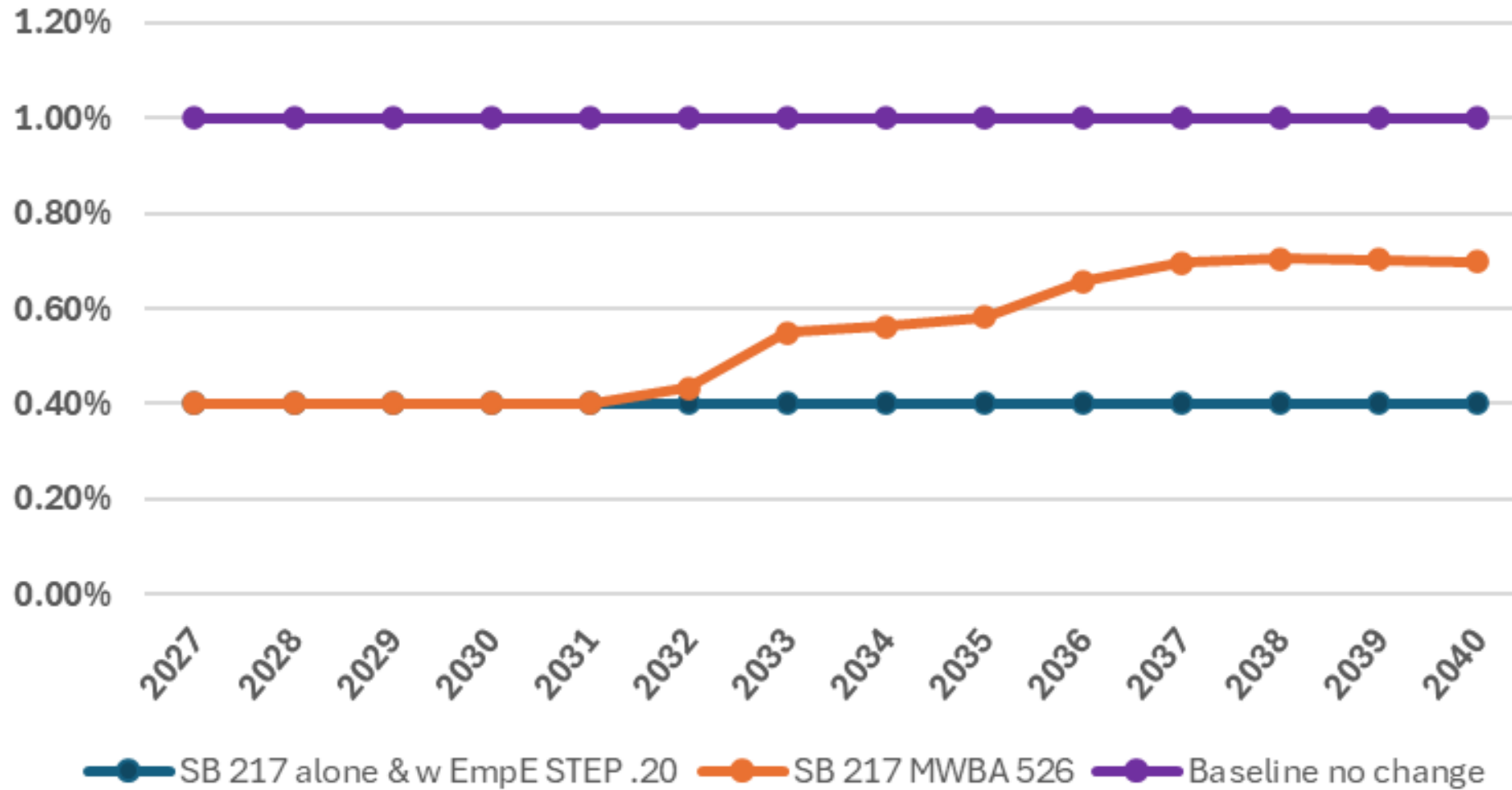
# State Employment and Training Program (STEP) Projections



# STEP Average Employer Tax Rate Projections



# Average Employer Total (UI & STEP) Tax Rate Projections



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## **Paloma Harbour, Director**

Division of Employment and Training Services

Email: [paloma.harbour@alaska.gov](mailto:paloma.harbour@alaska.gov)

Phone: (907) 465-5543

## **Lennon Weller**

UI Actuarial Economist

Email: [lennon.weller@alaska.gov](mailto:lennon.weller@alaska.gov)

Phone: (907) 465-4507

