

SENATE BILL REPORT

SB 5601

AS OF JANUARY 14, 1994

Brief Description: Amending the requirements for filing a claim for occupational disease.

SPONSORS: Senators Newhouse, Anderson, Amondson and Prince

SENATE COMMITTEE ON LABOR & COMMERCE

Staff: Dave Cheal (786-7576)

Hearing Dates: January 17, 1994

BACKGROUND:

Currently the time limit for filing an occupational disease claim for workers' compensation is two years following a written notice from a physician of the existence of the disease and that the worker may file a claim for disability benefits. This notice must also contain a statement that the claim must be filed within two years. The physician is required to file the notice with the department and the department must send a copy to the worker and self-insurer, if the worker is employed by a self-insurer.

SUMMARY:

The requirement of a written notice from the physician is removed. The requirements for the commencement of the two-year statute of limitation are that the worker receive notice, written or otherwise, of the existence of the occupational disease and the worker knew or should have known that a claim for disability benefits could be filed.

Employers are required to prominently display a notice describing the limitation period. The requirement for filing the notice with the department is removed.

Appropriation: none

Revenue: none

Fiscal Note: requested