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HOUSE BILL 2514

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State of Washington                      53rd Legislature                      1994 Regular Session

By Representatives G. Cole, Conway and Heavey

Read first time 01/17/94. Referred to Committee on Commerce & Labor.

1            AN ACT Relating to time limitations for the reconsideration  
2 authority of the department of labor and industries; and amending RCW  
3 51.52.060.

4 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF WASHINGTON:

5            **Sec. 1.** RCW 51.52.060 and 1986 c 200 s 11 are each amended to read  
6 as follows:

7            ((~~Any~~))(1)(a) A worker, beneficiary, employer, or other person  
8 aggrieved by an order, decision, or award of the department must,  
9 before he or she appeals to the courts, file with the board and the  
10 director, by mail or personally, within sixty days from the day on  
11 which ((~~such~~)) a copy of ((~~such~~)) the order, decision, or award was  
12 communicated to such person, a notice of appeal to the board((~~÷~~  
13 ~~PROVIDED, That~~)). However, a health services provider or other person  
14 aggrieved by a department order or decision making demand, whether with  
15 or without penalty, for repayment of sums paid to a provider of  
16 medical, dental, vocational, or other health services rendered to an  
17 industrially injured worker must, before he or she appeals to the  
18 courts, file with the board and the director, by mail or personally,  
19 within twenty days from the day on which ((~~such~~)) a copy of ((~~such~~))

1 the order or decision was communicated to the health services provider  
2 upon whom the department order or decision was served, a notice of  
3 appeal to the board.

4 (b) Failure to file a notice of appeal with both the board and the  
5 department shall not be grounds for denying the appeal if the notice of  
6 appeal is filed with either the board or the department.

7 (2) Within ten days of the date on which an appeal has been granted  
8 by the board, the board shall notify the other interested parties  
9 ((thereto)) to the appeal of the receipt ((thereof)) of the appeal and  
10 shall forward a copy of ((said)) the notice of appeal to ((such)) the  
11 other interested parties. Within twenty days of the receipt of such  
12 notice of the board, the worker or the employer may file with the board  
13 a cross-appeal from the order of the department from which the original  
14 appeal was taken( (:—PROVIDED, That nothing contained in this section  
15 shall be deemed to change, alter or modify the practice or procedure of  
16 the department for the payment of awards pending appeal:—AND PROVIDED,  
17 That failure to file notice of appeal with both the board and the  
18 department shall not be ground for denying the appeal if the notice of  
19 appeal is filed with either the board or the department:—AND PROVIDED,  
20 That,)).

21 (3) If within the time limited for filing a notice of appeal to the  
22 board from an order, decision, or award of the department, the  
23 department ((shall)) directs the submission of further evidence or the  
24 investigation of any further fact, the time for filing ((such)) the  
25 notice of appeal shall not commence to run until ((such)) the person  
26 ((shall have)) has been advised in writing of the final decision of the  
27 department in the matter( (:—PROVIDED, FURTHER, That)). In the event  
28 the department ((shall)) directs the submission of further evidence or  
29 the investigation of any further fact, as ((above)) provided in this  
30 section, the department shall render a final order, decision, or award  
31 within ninety days from the date ((such)) further submission of  
32 evidence or investigation of further fact is ordered which time period  
33 may be extended by the department for good cause stated in writing to  
34 all interested parties for an additional ninety days( (:—PROVIDED,  
35 FURTHER, That)).

36 (4) The department, either within the time limited for appeal, or  
37 within thirty days after receiving a notice of appeal, may:

38 (a) Modify, reverse, or change any order, decision, or award( (,—or  
39 may)); or

1        (b)(i) Except as provided in (b)(ii) of this subsection, hold ((any  
2 such)) an order, decision, or award in abeyance for a period of ninety  
3 days which time period may be extended by the department for good cause  
4 stated in writing to all interested parties for an additional ninety  
5 days pending further investigation in light of the allegations of the  
6 notice of appeal(~~, and~~); or

7        (ii) Hold an order, decision, or award issued under RCW 51.32.160  
8 in abeyance for a period not to exceed ninety days from the date of  
9 receipt of an application under RCW 51.32.160. The department may  
10 extend the ninety-day time period for an additional sixty days for good  
11 cause.

12        The board shall ((thereupon)) deny the appeal upon the issuance of  
13 an order under (b) (i) or (ii) of this subsection holding an earlier  
14 order, decision, or award in abeyance, without prejudice to the  
15 appellant's right to appeal from any subsequent determinative order  
16 issued by the department.

17        This subsection (4)(b) does not apply to applications deemed  
18 granted under RCW 51.32.160.

19        (5) A provision of this section shall not be deemed to change,  
20 alter, or modify the practice or procedure of the department for the  
21 payment of awards pending appeal.

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