
SUBSTITUTE HOUSE BILL 2696

State of Washington

53rd Legislature

1994 Regular Session

By House Committee on Commerce & Labor (originally sponsored by Representatives Flemming, Heavey, Backlund, Veloria, Thibaudeau, Campbell, Valle, Wineberry, Holm, Roland, Johanson, Pruitt, J. Kohl, Jones, L. Johnson, King, Karahalios, Conway and Springer)

Read first time 02/02/94.

1 AN ACT Relating to chemically related illness; adding new sections
2 to chapter 51.32 RCW; adding a new section to chapter 51.04 RCW; and
3 creating a new section.

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

5 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** A new section is added to chapter 51.32 RCW
6 to read as follows:

7 (1) By July 1, 1994, the department shall establish interim
8 criteria and procedures for management of claims involving chemically
9 related illness to ensure consistency and fairness in the adjudication
10 of these claims. The criteria and procedures shall apply to employees
11 covered by the state fund and employees of self-insured employers. The
12 department shall adopt final criteria and procedures by December 31,
13 1994, and report the criteria and procedures as required under section
14 5 of this act.

15 (2) The special procedures developed by the department shall
16 include procedures to determine which claims involving chemically
17 related illness require expert management. The department shall assign
18 claims managers with special training or expertise to manage these
19 claims.

1 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** A new section is added to chapter 51.04 RCW
2 to read as follows:

3 The department of labor and industries and the department of health
4 shall be the colead agencies for an advisory committee that shall
5 consult with and advise the participating agencies on issues relating
6 to chemically related illness. The committee shall include three
7 members representing persons with chemically related illnesses, and one
8 representative of each of the following: The department of labor and
9 industries, the department of health, the state board of health, the
10 state health care authority, the department of social and health
11 services, the office of the insurance commissioner, the department of
12 ecology, the department of agriculture, the employment security
13 department, each caucus of the senate and house of representatives, the
14 governor's office, physicians licensed to practice medicine,
15 osteopathic physicians and surgeons, self-insured employers, state fund
16 employers, workers of self-insured employers, and workers of state fund
17 employers. The committee should review and make recommendations
18 regarding the criteria and procedures developed by the department under
19 section 1 of this act, the responsibilities of the several agencies for
20 providing services to persons with chemically related illness, the
21 coordination between chemically related occupational disease and other
22 chemically related illness public health issues, and any other issues
23 related to providing services to persons with chemically related
24 illnesses that the committee may choose to review.

25 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 3.** A new section is added to chapter 51.32 RCW
26 to read as follows:

27 The department shall work with the department of health to
28 establish one or more centers for research and clinical assessment of
29 chemically related illness.

30 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 4.** A new section is added to chapter 51.32 RCW
31 to read as follows:

32 (1) The department shall conduct research on chemically related
33 illnesses, which may include contracting with an appropriate entity or
34 entities. The workers' compensation advisory committee and a
35 scientific advisory committee, established to provide scientific
36 oversight of research projects, shall review proposals for projects
37 funded under this section. If possible, the department shall include

1 a research project that encourages regional cooperation in addressing
2 chemically related illness issues.

3 (2) Expenditures for research projects shall be within legislative
4 appropriations from the medical aid fund, with self-insured employers
5 and the state fund each paying a pro rata share, based on the number of
6 worker hours, of the authorized expenditures.

7 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 5.** In consultation with the workers'
8 compensation advisory committee, the department of labor and industries
9 and the department of health shall jointly make an interim report to
10 the governor and the appropriate committees of the legislature by
11 December 31, 1994, and a final report by June 30, 1995, on:

12 (1) The status of the department of labor and industries' final
13 criteria and procedures for management of claims involving chemically
14 related illness;

15 (2) The status of research projects authorized under section 4 of
16 this act;

17 (3) A plan by the department of health for including accurate
18 occupational information in all relevant current and developing
19 automated health data bases;

20 (4) A state board of health plan to make occupational diseases
21 reportable conditions;

22 (5) Other initiatives related to chemically related illness; and

23 (6) Any recommendations for legislation.

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