
HOUSE BILL 2696

State of Washington

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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 01/21/94. Referred to Committee on Commerce & Labor.

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 department of social and
10 health services, the employment security department, each caucus of the
11 senate and house of representatives, the governor's office, physicians
12 licensed to practice medicine, osteopathic physician and surgeons,
13 business, and labor. The committee's review should include the
14 development of the criteria and procedures required in section 1 of
15 this act, the responsibilities of the several agencies for providing
16 services to persons with chemically related illness, the coordination
17 between chemically related occupational disease and other chemically
18 related illness public health issues, and any other issues related to
19 providing services to persons with chemically related illnesses that
20 the committee may choose to review.

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

23 The department shall work with the University of Washington and the
24 department of health to establish one or more centers for research and
25 clinical assessment of chemically related illness.

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

28 (1) The department shall contract with an appropriate entity or
29 entities to conduct research on chemically related illnesses. A
30 scientific advisory committee shall be established to provide
31 scientific oversight of research projects funded under this section.
32 If possible, the department shall include a research project that
33 encourages regional cooperation in addressing chemically related
34 illness issues.

35 (2) Expenditures for research projects shall be within legislative
36 appropriations and be funded in equal parts from the medical aid fund,
37 the accident fund, and a special assessment on self-insured employers.

1 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 5.** The department of labor and industries and
2 the department of health shall jointly report to the governor and the
3 appropriate committees of the legislature by December 31, 1994, on the
4 status of the department of labor and industries' final criteria and
5 procedures for management of claims involving chemically related
6 illness, research projects, and other initiatives related to chemically
7 related illness, and any recommendations for legislation.

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