
SUBSTITUTE HOUSE BILL 2840

State of Washington

55th Legislature

1998 Regular Session

By House Committee on Commerce & Labor (originally sponsored by Representatives Clements, McMorris, Schoesler, Honeyford, Boldt, D. Schmidt and Mielke)

Read first time 02/05/98. Referred to Committee on .

1 AN ACT Relating to citations under the Washington industrial safety
2 and health act; and amending RCW 49.17.120.

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

4 **Sec. 1.** RCW 49.17.120 and 1973 c 80 s 12 are each amended to read
5 as follows:

6 (1) If upon inspection or investigation the director or his or her
7 authorized representative believes that an employer has violated a
8 requirement of RCW 49.17.060, or any safety or health standard
9 promulgated by rule adopted by the director, or the conditions of any
10 order granting a variance pursuant to this chapter, ((he)) the director
11 shall with reasonable promptness issue a citation to the employer.
12 Each citation shall be in writing and shall describe with particularity
13 the nature of the violation, including a reference to the provisions of
14 the statute, standard, rule, regulation, or order alleged to have been
15 violated. In addition, the citation shall fix a reasonable time for
16 the abatement of the violation.

17 (2) The director may prescribe procedures for the issuance of a
18 notice in lieu of a citation with respect to de minimis violations
19 which have no direct or immediate relationship to safety or health.

1 (3) Each citation, or a copy or copies thereof, issued under the
2 authority of this section and RCW 49.17.130 shall be prominently
3 posted, at or near each place a violation referred to in the citation
4 occurred or as may otherwise be prescribed in regulations issued by the
5 director. The director shall provide by rule for procedures to be
6 followed by an employee representative upon written application to
7 receive copies of citations and notices issued to any employer having
8 employees who are represented by such employee representative. Such
9 rule may prescribe the form of such application, the time for renewal
10 of applications, and the eligibility of the applicant to receive copies
11 of citations and notices.

12 (4) No citation may be issued under this section or RCW 49.17.130
13 after the expiration of six months following a compliance inspection,
14 investigation, or survey revealing any such violation.

15 (5)(a) No citation may be issued under this section if there is
16 unpreventable employee misconduct that led to the violation, but the
17 employer must show the existence of:

18 (i) A thorough safety program, including work rules, training, and
19 equipment designed to prevent the violation;

20 (ii) Adequate communication of these rules to employees;

21 (iii) Steps to discover and correct violations of its safety rules;
22 and

23 (iv) Effective enforcement of its safety program as written in
24 practice and not just in theory.

25 (b) This subsection (5) does not eliminate or modify any other
26 defenses that may exist to a citation.

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