
SUBSTITUTE SENATE BILL 5965

State of Washington

55th Legislature

1997 Regular Session

By Senate Committee on Commerce & Labor (originally sponsored by Senators Schow, Horn, Anderson, Heavey and Franklin)

Read first time 03/05/97.

1 AN ACT Relating to agency ratings for industrial insurance;
2 amending RCW 51.44.170; and amending 1990 c 204 s 1 (uncodified).

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

4 **Sec. 1.** RCW 51.44.170 and 1991 sp.s. c 13 s 29 are each amended to
5 read as follows:

6 The industrial insurance premium refund account is created in the
7 state treasury. All industrial insurance refunds earned by state
8 agencies or institutions of higher education under the state fund
9 retrospective rating program shall be deposited into the account.
10 (~~Moneys in the account may be spent only after appropriation.~~) Only
11 moneys earned through the retrospective rating program are outside the
12 biennial expenditure limitation imposed on agencies by the legislature
13 and must be available for expenditure by agencies through an account
14 not subject to the appropriation process. No agency or institution of
15 higher education may (~~receive an appropriation~~) make requests for
16 expenditures for an amount greater than the refund earned by the
17 agency. An expenditure request must be detailed and filed with the
18 state treasurer. Expenditure requests must be subject to periodic
19 review by the office of financial management. Expenditures from the

1 account shall be used to pay for any dedicated staff assigned to
2 workers' compensation claims management and may be used for any program
3 within an agency or institution of higher education(~~(, but preference~~
4 ~~shall be given to programs))~~) that promotes or provides incentives for
5 employee workplace safety and health and early, appropriate return-to-
6 work for injured employees.

7 **Sec. 2.** 1990 c 204 s 1 (uncodified) is amended to read as follows:

8 The legislature finds that workplace safety in state employment is
9 of paramount importance in maintaining a productive and committed state
10 work force. The legislature also finds that recognition in state
11 agencies and institutions of higher education of industrial insurance
12 programs that provide safe working environments and promote early
13 return-to-work for injured employees will encourage agencies and
14 institutions of higher education to develop these programs. A purpose
15 of this act is to provide incentives for agencies and institutions of
16 higher education to participate in industrial insurance safety programs
17 and return-to-work programs by authorizing use of the industrial
18 insurance premium refunds earned by agencies or institutions of higher
19 education participating in industrial insurance retrospective rating
20 programs. Since agency retrospective rating refunds are generated from
21 safety performance and cannot be set at predictable levels determined
22 by the budget process, the incentive awards should not impact, by a
23 like amount, an agency's legislatively approved budget.

--- END ---