
HOUSE BILL 2232

State of Washington

56th Legislature

1999 Regular Session

By Representatives Conway and Clements

Read first time 02/23/1999. Referred to Committee on Commerce & Labor.

1 AN ACT Relating to occupational safety and health impact grants;
2 and adding new sections to chapter 49.17 RCW.

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

4 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** (1) The director, in consultation with the
5 WISHA advisory committee and the workers' compensation advisory
6 committee, shall establish a program to provide safety and health
7 impact grants to prevent injuries and illnesses, save lives, and
8 educate all Washington employees and employers about workplace hazards.
9 The intent of this act is to benefit, in the broadest sense possible,
10 Washington workers and employers, especially those who are in small
11 business and may lack the injury and illness prevention resources that
12 larger companies may possess. The department may use appropriated
13 industrial insurance funds to accomplish the purpose of this act.
14 Funding for this program will be out of the reserves of the medical aid
15 fund which are in excess of actuarial needs.

16 (2) Using a competitive application process, the department shall
17 award safety and health impact grants to trade associations, business
18 associations, employers, employee organizations, and labor unions. The
19 grants may include:

1 (a) Education and training grants to implement safety and health
2 and to provide information, curricula, materials, and methods intended
3 for use by employers and employees in reducing workplace hazards;

4 (b) Technical innovation grants to develop engineering and other
5 technical solutions to injury and illness problems;

6 (c) Best practice grants for the application of hazard control; or

7 (d) State-wide priority grants to undertake innovative programs
8 that address state-wide safety and health priorities established by the
9 WISHA advisory committee.

10 (3) Applicants for grants may form partnerships with educational
11 institutions and other organizations. Applicants for grants may form
12 partnerships with self-insured employers if the product of the grant
13 will significantly benefit employees and employers who belong to the
14 state industrial insurance fund.

15 (4) Any materials, designs, or equipment developed under these
16 grants will be in the public domain and may not be copyrighted or
17 patented. They must be provided to the department at no charge upon
18 request.

19 (5) Grants may not be used to support specific legislative or
20 regulatory initiatives.

21 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** (1) The director shall appoint a safety and
22 health impact grant review committee that will be a subcommittee of the
23 WISHA advisory committee. The review committee is composed of nine
24 members: Four members representing employees, each appointed from a
25 list of at least three names submitted by recognized state-wide
26 organizations of employees; four members representing employers, each
27 appointed from a list of at least three names submitted by recognized
28 state-wide organizations of employers; and one ex officio member,
29 without a vote, who shall represent the department. The committee
30 chair shall be chosen by the review committee and shall alternate
31 between business and labor. The committee members shall serve three-
32 year renewable terms.

33 (2) Review committee business and labor committee members are
34 entitled to standard per diem rates.

35 (3) The safety and health impact grant review committee shall:

36 (a) Prepare requests for proposals;

37 (b) Receive, review, and process grant applications;

1 (c) Identify, by two-thirds majority vote, grant applications that
2 merit funding and forward those applications to the director; and

3 (d) Identify, by two-thirds majority vote, funded grants that meet
4 criteria for suspension or revocation and forward those grants to the
5 director.

6 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 3.** (1) The safety and health impact grant
7 review committee, with approval from the director, shall develop grant
8 application procedures and approval criteria, and shall ensure the
9 proper administrative support to successfully monitor grant recipients
10 for compliance with grant criteria and all other procedures under the
11 grant program. The director shall implement procedures and criteria
12 for grant approval, including procedures for suspension or revocation
13 of grants to recipients failing to comply with grant criteria
14 established under the authority of this section.

15 (2) The director shall approve only those grant applications and
16 their recommended acceptance conditions as forwarded by the safety and
17 health impact grant review committee, unless the director has a
18 compelling and substantive reason to reject an application, whereupon
19 the director shall provide written explanation for the denial to the
20 review committee, which, in turn, may refer the application to the
21 WISHA advisory committee. The WISHA advisory committee shall review
22 any grant applications rejected by the director and may advise the
23 director to reconsider. The director shall consider the advice, if
24 given, and shall approve the grant application with any conditions
25 presented by the WISHA advisory committee. The director may reject
26 that advice only for a compelling and substantive reason.

27 (3) The director may revoke or suspend an issued grant if advised
28 by the safety and health impact grant review committee that the
29 recipient is not in compliance with grant criteria or procedures.

30 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 4.** The department and the safety and health
31 impact grant review committee will present an annual review to the
32 WISHA advisory committee and the workers' compensation advisory
33 committee regarding the activities of the safety and health impact
34 grant program. The workers' compensation advisory committee shall make
35 a biennial recommendation to the director concerning an appropriate
36 budget for the program.

1 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 5.** The director and representatives from the
2 WISHA advisory committee shall perform a comprehensive review of the
3 grant program and shall issue a report for the legislature not later
4 than December 31, 2004.

5 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 6.** The following acts or parts of acts are each
6 repealed, effective July 1, 2005:

7 (1) Section 1 of this act;

8 (2) Section 2 of this act;

9 (3) Section 3 of this act;

10 (4) Section 4 of this act; and

11 (5) Section 5 of this act.

12 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 7.** Sections 1 through 6 of this act are each
13 added to chapter 49.17 RCW.

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