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**SENATE BILL 5884**

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**State of Washington**

**56th Legislature**

**1999 Regular Session**

**By** Senators Hochstatter, Morton, Honeyford, Deccio, West and Oke

Read first time 02/15/1999. Referred to Committee on Labor & Workforce Development.

1 AN ACT Relating to workers' compensation insurance; adding a new  
2 section to chapter 51.04 RCW; and creating new sections.

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

4 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** The purpose of this act is to provide all  
5 employers in Washington state a choice of carriers from whom to  
6 purchase workers' compensation insurance; to provide employers and  
7 their employees the benefits of a competitive system; to provide  
8 workers the benefits of safety systems developed by private enterprise,  
9 as well as those provided by government; to provide private industry in  
10 Washington state the opportunity to do business with government  
11 regulation; to eliminate a government monopoly to small employers; and  
12 to increase the operating skills of Washington's government run  
13 workers' compensation industry by introducing competition into the  
14 business of workers' compensation insurance.

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

17 Effective January 1, 2001, employers in this state may purchase  
18 workers' compensation insurance, and related coverage, from an insurer

1 holding a certificate of authority under Title 48 RCW and certified by  
2 the department of labor and industries under this title.

3 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 3.** (1) An implementing committee shall develop  
4 legislation for implementing this act and report its recommendations to  
5 the legislature by January 1, 2000.

6 (2) The committee consists of the following:

7 (a) Two members of the senate, one from each major caucus to be  
8 appointed by the lieutenant governor;

9 (b) Two members of the house of representatives, one from each  
10 major caucus to be appointed by the co-speakers of the house of  
11 representatives;

12 (c) A representative of employers; a representative of workers; a  
13 representative of the insurance industry; a representative of the  
14 Washington state bar association; a representative of the Washington  
15 state medical association, each of whom shall be chosen by a majority  
16 vote of the legislative members.

17 (3) Each committee member has one vote.

18 (4) The committee may add up to three members ex officio, who have  
19 the right to speak and make motions, but have no vote.

20 (5) The committee must hire staff and counsel to carry out its  
21 mission.

22 (6) The commission members shall receive no compensation.  
23 Legislators shall be reimbursed for their travel expenses as provided  
24 in RCW 44.04.120. Other members of the commission shall be reimbursed  
25 for travel expenses as provided in RCW 43.03.050 and 43.03.060.

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