

SENATE BILL REPORT

SB 5234

As of January 29, 2001

Title: An act relating to supplemental medical opinions.

Brief Description: Allowing additional medical evidence in industrial insurance claims.

Sponsors: Senator Swecker.

Brief History:

Committee Activity: Labor, Commerce & Financial Institutions: 2/1/01.

SENATE COMMITTEE ON LABOR, COMMERCE & FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS

Staff: Elizabeth Mitchell (786-7430)

Background: A person seeking worker's compensation benefits may appeal a final decision by the Department of Labor and Industries. The appeal must be filed with the Board of Industrial Insurance Appeals within 60 days after a final decision has been communicated to the worker.

Summary of Bill: If a worker chooses to file an appeal, s/he may seek a supplementary medical opinion. Department orders must inform workers that they have the right to a supplementary medical opinion.

If a worker notifies the department and the board that s/he is seeking a supplementary medical opinion within 60 days after receiving a final decision from the department, the worker has a total of 120 days to submit a notice of appeal and the results of the supplementary exam.

To receive a supplementary medical opinion, a worker must provide the department with a list of two licensed physicians. The department is to choose one of these physicians to perform the supplementary medical examination.

Appropriation: None.

Fiscal Note: Requested on January 23, 2001.

Effective Date: Ninety days after adjournment of session in which bill is passed.