

1 **HB 2158** - H AMD  
2 By Representative Chandler

3 Strike everything after the enacting clause and insert the  
4 following:

5 "NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** (1) The legislature finds that the  
6 Washington industrial insurance system administered by the  
7 department of labor and industries is being adversely affected by  
8 several factors, including but not limited to:

9 (a) A period of national and state economic uncertainty that  
10 has reduced investment income in the system; and

11 (b) Administrative uncertainties that have arisen as a result  
12 of recent court decisions affecting benefits paid.

13 (2) It is the intent of the legislature to address these  
14 problems with policy changes resulting in the comprehensive reform  
15 of the industrial insurance system that serves to prevent like and  
16 similar problems from occurring in the future. Further, it is the  
17 intent of the legislature that this act meet all of the following  
18 goals:

19 (a) The policy changes should treat both employers and workers  
20 fairly, with equitable consideration given to issues concerning  
21 benefits paid and received, as well as resulting costs and burdens  
22 to the system; and

23 (b) The policy changes should support a sound and stable  
24 financial basis for the system, including consideration given to  
25 rate stabilization methods to reduce significant increases in  
26 rates."

**EFFECT:** Adds that (1) administrative uncertainties from recent court decisions have also adversely affected the industrial insurance system; (2) the Legislature intends to address these problems with comprehensive reform that serves to prevent similar problems from occurring in the future; (3) the policy changes should include treating both employers and workers

fairly, giving equitable consideration to benefits paid and received and costs and burdens to the system; and (4) the policy changes should give consideration to rate stabilization.