

6158

Sponsor(s): Senators Prentice, Benton and Winsley

Brief Description: Changing the scope of the Washington insurance guarantee association act. (REVISED FOR ENGROSSED: Creating the longshore and harbor workers' compensation act insurance guarantee committee.) (REVISED FOR PASSED LEGISLATURE: Studying workers' compensation policies purchased under the Washington guarantee association.)

**SB 6158.E - DIGEST**

(DIGEST AS ENACTED)

Finds that the consumers who purchase workers' compensation insurance from the private marketplace in Washington are not protected from the insolvency and liquidation of these insurers.

Finds that it is in the best interest of the citizens of this state to provide a mechanism to protect these policyholders from the insolvency of their insurers. The insurance commissioner shall study the impact of covering workers' compensation policies purchased on the commercial market under the Washington guarantee association.

Requires the insurance commissioner to study and develop recommendations regarding the following: The impact and effectiveness of covering longshore and harbor workers' compensation act insurance, as defined in 33 U.S.C. Sec. 901 et seq., under the Washington guarantee association. In the conduct of this study, the insurance commissioner shall consult with appropriate state agencies; United States longshore and harbor workers' compensation act insurers; insurance carriers; insurance agents and brokers; organized labor; the United States longshore and harbor workers' compensation act assigned risk plan; and maritime employers. The department of labor and industries shall consult with this study on an ex officio basis.

Requires the insurance commissioner to also examine the impact of excluding from guarantee protection workers' compensation policies purchased on the commercial market for employments identified in RCW 51.12.020 and the impact of excluding workers' compensation policies purchased by tribal employers and other groups affected by commercial market workers' compensation products.

Directs the insurance commissioner to report the results of these studies to the legislature not later than December 1, 2004.