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HOUSE BILL 2185

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State of Washington                      59th Legislature                      2005 Regular Session

By Representatives Newhouse, Conway and Condotta

Read first time 02/22/2005. Referred to Committee on Commerce & Labor.

1            AN ACT Relating to residence modifications for injured workers;  
2 adding a new section to chapter 51.36 RCW; and declaring an emergency.

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

4            NEW SECTION.    **Sec. 1.** A new section is added to chapter 51.36 RCW  
5 to read as follows:

6            (1) The legislature finds that there is a need to improve the  
7 standards under which the department provides residence modification  
8 assistance to workers who have sustained catastrophic injury.

9            (2) The director shall adopt rules that take effect no later than  
10 six months after the effective date of this section to establish  
11 standards for residence modification pursuant to RCW 51.36.020(7).  
12 These rules must address at least the following:

13            (a) The rules must use, as guidelines, the standards on adaptive  
14 residential housing adopted by the federal department of veterans  
15 affairs;

16            (b) For purposes of determining the needs and requirements of the  
17 worker under RCW 51.36.020(7) or determining whether a modification is  
18 medically necessary, the department must give substantial weight to the  
19 opinion of the worker's attending health services provider.

1 (3) In developing rules under this section, the director shall  
2 consult with other persons with an interest in improving standards for  
3 adaptive housing.

4 (4) The director shall report by December 1, 2005, to the  
5 appropriate committees of the legislature on the rules adopted under  
6 this section.

7 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** This act is necessary for the immediate  
8 preservation of the public peace, health, or safety, or support of the  
9 state government and its existing public institutions, and takes effect  
10 immediately.

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