
SENATE BILL 6014

State of Washington

59th Legislature

2005 Regular Session

By Senators Kline, Parlette, Kohl-Welles and Keiser

Read first time 02/21/2005. Referred to Committee on Labor, Commerce, Research & Development.

1 AN ACT Relating to ensuring that employers are not charged for
2 claims made due to injuries during emergencies or disasters; and
3 amending RCW 51.16.130.

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

5 **Sec. 1.** RCW 51.16.130 and 1972 ex.s. c 43 s 14 are each amended to
6 read as follows:

7 (1) Whenever there shall occur an accident in which three or more
8 employees of an employer insured with the state fund are fatally
9 injured or sustain permanent total disability, the amount of total cost
10 other than medical aid costs arising out of such accident that shall be
11 charged to the account of the employer, shall be twice the average cost
12 of the pension claims arising out of such accident. The entire cost of
13 such accident, exclusive of medical aid costs, shall be charged against
14 and defrayed by the catastrophe injury account.

15 (2) In the event of an emergency or disaster as defined in RCW
16 38.52.010(6)(a), if the private sector is asked by state or local
17 municipalities to assist in the life and rescue phase, claim costs
18 incurred as a result of any ensuing injuries shall not be charged to
19 the employer of record.

1 (3) For the purposes of this section, "life and rescue phase" means
2 the first seventy-two hours after the occurrence of a natural or man-
3 made disaster in which a state or municipal corporation, including law
4 enforcement, acknowledges or declares such a disaster and requests
5 assistance from the private sector in locating and rescuing survivors.
6 The initial life and rescue phase may be extended for a finite period
7 of time by declaration of the state or municipal corporation.

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