

**HB 3122 - DIGEST**

(DIGEST AS ENACTED)

Finds that employees of the department of social and health services who provide child protective, child welfare, and adult protective services are sometimes faced with highly volatile, hostile, and/or threatening situations during the course of performing their official duties.

Finds that the work group convened by the department of social and health services pursuant to chapter 389, Laws of 2005, has made various recommendations regarding policies and protocols to address the safety of workers.

Declares an intent to implement the work group's recommendations for statutory changes in recognition of the sometimes hazardous nature of employment in child protective, child welfare, and adult protective services.

Provides that, in recognition of the hazardous nature of employment in child protective, child welfare, and adult protective services, the legislature hereby provides a supplementary program to reimburse employees of the department, for some of their costs attributable to their being the victims of assault while in the course of discharging their assigned duties. This program shall be limited to the reimbursement provided in this act.

Provides that an employee is only entitled to receive the reimbursement provided in this act if the secretary of social and health services, or the secretary's designee, finds that each of the following has occurred: (1) A person has assaulted the employee while the employee was in the course of performing his or her official duties and, as a result thereof, the employee has sustained demonstrated physical injuries which have required the employee to miss days of work;

(2) The assault cannot be attributable to any extent to the employee's negligence, misconduct, or failure to comply with any rules or conditions of employment; and

(3) The department of labor and industries has approved the employee's workers' compensation application pursuant to chapter 51.32 RCW.

Requires the department of social and health services to report to the governor and the appropriate committees of the legislature by December 1, 2006, on the implementation of those recommendations contained in the department's October 2005 report entitled child protective services - staff safety.