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**Commerce & Labor Committee**

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**HB 2105**

**Brief Description:** Requiring payment of prescription drugs for industrial insurance medical aid claims for initial visits.

**Sponsors:** Representatives Conway, Condotta, Kenney, Simpson and Ormsby.

**Brief Summary of Bill**

- Requires the Department of Labor and Industries to pay for initial prescription costs related to an initial medical visit for any alleged injury for which a worker files a workers' compensation claim regardless of whether the claim is allowed.

**Hearing Date:** 2/15/07

**Staff:** Sarah Beznoska (786-7109).

**Background:**

Industrial insurance is a no-fault state workers' compensation program that provides medical and partial wage replacement benefits to covered workers who are injured on the job or who develop an occupational disease. Employers must insure with the state fund administered by the Department of Labor and Industries (Department) or, if qualified, may self-insure.

Under the Industrial Insurance Act, a worker injured in the course of employment may be entitled to proper and necessary medical and surgical services from a physician of his or her choice. All fees and medical charges must comply with a fee schedule established by the Department and must be paid within 60 days of receipt by the Department or self-insured employer of a proper billing, or 60 days after the claim is allowed by final order or judgment, if an otherwise proper billing is received by the Department or self-insured employer prior to final adjudication of claim allowance.

**Summary of Bill:**

For state fund claims, the Department of Labor and Industries (Department) must pay for any initial prescription drugs provided in an initial medical visit for any injury for which a worker

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files a claim. Payment must be made without regard to whether the worker's claim for benefits is ultimately allowed. Payments must be made in accordance with the Department's fee schedule.

**Rules Authority:** The bill does not address the rule making authority of an agency.

**Appropriation:** None.

**Fiscal Note:** Requested on February 9, 2007.

**Effective Date:** The bill takes effect 90 days after adjournment of session in which bill is passed.