
Commerce & Labor Committee

ESSB 5915

Brief Description: Providing unemployment and industrial insurance notices to employers.

Sponsors: Senate Committee on Labor, Commerce, Research & Development (originally sponsored by Senators Honeyford, Clements, Kohl-Welles and Roach).

Brief Summary of Engrossed Substitute Bill

- Requires the Employment Security Department and the Department of Labor and Industries to send employers any printed material that must be posted.
- Requires, if attending health services providers file industrial insurance claim applications, that workers provide written notices of such claims to employers within 10 days of receiving medical treatment.

Hearing Date: 3/22/07

Staff: Jill Reinmuth (786-7134).

Background:

Unemployment Compensation

The unemployment compensation program provides partial wage replacement benefits to covered workers who are unemployed through no fault of their own. The program is administered by the Employment Security Department.

Employers must post notices stating that they are liable for taxes under the Employment Security Act. The notices must provide information about how to register for work and file claims for benefits, as well as rights to benefits. The notices are to be posted in conspicuous places close to the actual location where the personal services are performed.

Industrial Insurance

This analysis was prepared by non-partisan legislative staff for the use of legislative members in their deliberations. This analysis is not a part of the legislation nor does it constitute a statement of legislative intent.

The industrial insurance program provides medical and partial wage replacement benefits to covered workers who are injured on the job or who develop an occupational disease. Employers who are not self-insured must insure with the state fund operated by the Department of Labor and Industries.

Employers must post notices stating that they are subject to the Industrial Insurance Act. The notices must indicate whether the employer is insured with the state fund or self-insured, and designate persons on the premises to whom reports of injury must be made.

Workers entitled to benefits must file claim applications with the Department of Labor and Industries or self-insured employers, together with certificates of attending health services providers. Attending providers must inform workers of their rights under the Industrial Insurance Act and assist workers in filing claim applications. If attending health services providers file claim applications on behalf of injured workers, providers may fax applications to the Department of Labor and Industries. If employers have not received copies of such applications, the Department of Labor and Industries must send copies to employers.

Summary of Bill:

When employers initially file applications for master business licenses and register to pay unemployment insurance taxes and industrial insurance taxes, the Employment Security Department and the Department of Labor and Industries (collectively, the "agencies") must send employers any printed material that must be posted. Any time the printed material has substantive changes, the agencies must send copies to employers.

If attending health services providers file claim applications on behalf of injured workers, workers must provide written notices of claims to employers within 10 days of receiving medical treatment. The Department of Labor and Industries must develop forms to help workers expediently provide such notice of claims.

Rules Authority: The bill does not address the rule-making powers of an agency.

Appropriation: None.

Fiscal Note: Requested on March 14, 2007.

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