
SUBSTITUTE HOUSE BILL 1792

State of Washington

60th Legislature

2007 Regular Session

By House Committee on Commerce & Labor (originally sponsored by Representatives Conway, Condotta, Morris, Chandler, Kenney, Priest, P. Sullivan, Chase, Wood and Moeller)

READ FIRST TIME 2/28/07.

1 AN ACT Relating to a study of the incidence of total permanent
2 disability pensions in the state's workers' compensation system; and
3 creating new sections.

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

5 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** (1) The department of labor and industries
6 shall conduct a study of the incidence of total permanent disability
7 pensions in the state's workers' compensation system. The department
8 shall contract with an independent researcher approved by the labor and
9 business members of the workers' compensation advisory committee. The
10 independent researcher must have demonstrated expertise in workers'
11 compensation systems. The department shall consult with the workers'
12 compensation advisory committee in determining the criteria to use in
13 selecting a researcher and in selecting the researcher with which to
14 contract.

15 (2) In conducting the study under subsection (1) of this section,
16 the researcher selected shall consider the following:

17 (a) Causes of the recent increase in total permanent disability
18 cases, including changes in injured worker demographics, policy, and
19 other areas that may be identified;

- 1 (b) Future anticipated total permanent disability trends;
- 2 (c) A comparison of Washington's permanent disability claims
3 experience and injured workers with other states and jurisdictions;
- 4 (d) The impact of the standard for finding workers employable on
5 the incidence of permanent total disability pensions; and
- 6 (e) The impact of vocational rehabilitation under RCW 51.32.095,
7 and any improvements to vocational rehabilitation, on the incidence of
8 permanent total disability pensions.
- 9 (3) The department shall report to the workers' compensation
10 advisory committee on the results of the study on or before July 1,
11 2008.

12 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** If specific funding for the purposes of this
13 act, referencing this act by bill or chapter number, is not provided by
14 June 30, 2007, in the omnibus appropriations act, this act is null and
15 void.

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