

# SENATE BILL REPORT

## SB 5278

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As Passed Senate, March 2, 2011

**Title:** An act relating to information contained in rate notices under the industrial insurance laws.

**Brief Description:** Addressing information contained in rate notices under the industrial insurance laws.

**Sponsors:** Senators Holmquist Newbry and King.

**Brief History:**

**Committee Activity:** Labor, Commerce & Consumer Protection: 2/01/11, 2/03/11, 2/07/11 [DP].

Passed Senate: 3/02/11, 49-0.

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### SENATE COMMITTEE ON LABOR, COMMERCE & CONSUMER PROTECTION

**Majority Report:** Do pass.

Signed by Senators Kohl-Welles, Chair; Conway, Vice Chair; Holmquist Newbry, Ranking Minority Member; King, Assistant Ranking Minority Member; Hewitt, Keiser and Kline.

**Staff:** Mac Nicholson (786-7445)

**Background:** Expenses relating to industrial safety and health services of the Department of Labor and Industries (L&I) that pertain to workers' compensation are paid by the L&I and financed by premiums and assessments collected from the state fund and self-insured employers. In addition to paying workers' compensation benefits and administrative costs, premiums are used to fund other programs and services, including L&I's Division of Occupational Safety and Health, the Department of Environmental and Occupational Health Sciences at the University of Washington, and specialty compliance services at L&I which include the apprenticeship and employment standards programs.

**Summary of Bill:** Rate notices must include an accounting that clearly identifies all programs and services that are financed in whole or in part by state fund premiums or self-insurers' administrative assessments.

**Appropriation:** None.

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*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.*

**Fiscal Note:** Available.

**Committee/Commission/Task Force Created:** No.

**Effective Date:** Ninety days after adjournment of session in which bill is passed.

**Staff Summary of Public Testimony:** PRO: This bill is about transparency and letting employers and workers know where their workers compensation taxes go. This is a great idea.

**Persons Testifying:** PRO: Kris Tefft, Association of Washington Business; Patrick Connor, NFIB.