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SENATE BILL 6505

State of Washington 62nd Legislature 2012 Regular Session

By Senators Keiser and Kohl-Welles

Read first time 01/26/12. Referred to Committee on Labor, Commerce & Consumer Protection.

- 1 AN ACT Relating to assisting employees of self-insured employers
- 2 entering claim resolution structured settlement agreements; amending
- 3 RCW 51.32.242; and adding a new section to chapter 51.14 RCW.
- 4 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF WASHINGTON:
- 5 <u>NEW SECTION.</u> **Sec. 1.** A new section is added to chapter 51.14 RCW to read as follows:
- 7 The office of the ombudsman shall develop and promote an
- 8 educational program and materials to assist employees of self-insured
- 9 employers entering into claim resolution structured settlement
- 10 agreements pursuant to RCW 51.04.063.
- 11 Sec. 2. RCW 51.32.242 and 2008 c 280 s 3 are each amended to read
- 12 as follows:
- 13 (1) Except as provided in subsection (2) of this section, each
- 14 self-insured employer shall retain from the earnings of each of its
- 15 workers that amount as shall be fixed from time to time by the
- 16 director, the basis for measuring said amount to be determined by the
- 17 director. These moneys shall only be retained from employees and
- 18 remitted to the department in such manner and at such intervals as the

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department directs and shall be placed in the self-insured employer overpayment reimbursement fund. The moneys so collected shall be used ((exclusively)) for reimbursement to the reserve fund and to self-insured employers for benefits overpaid during the pendency of board or court appeals in which the self-insured employer prevails and has not recovered, and shall be no more than necessary to make such payments on a current basis, and during fiscal year 2013 up to five hundred thousand dollars for the purposes described in section 1 of this act.

(2) None of the amount assessed for the employer overpayment reimbursement fund under this section may be retained from the earnings of workers covered under RCW 51.16.210.

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