

# FINAL BILL REPORT

## HB 1469

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Synopsis as Enacted

**Brief Description:** Addressing industrial insurance for horse racing employment.

**Sponsors:** Representatives Schmick, Sells, Reykdal, Fagan, Green, Condotta, Short, Ormsby and Van De Wege; by request of Department of Labor & Industries.

**House Committee on Labor & Workforce Development**  
**Senate Committee on Commerce & Labor**

**Background:**

The Washington Horse Racing Commission (WHRC) regulates the horse racing industry and licenses participants in the industry. Some of the participants requiring licenses include trainers, assistant trainers, grooms, exercise riders, and pony riders. The WHRC also collects workers' compensation premiums assessed by the Department of Labor and Industries (Department).

Premiums are collected from owners and trainers, and assessments are not experience rated. Trainers must pay the premium assessment for each person in their employ. The premium rate depends upon the type of licenses the trainer's employees have. Premiums owed by trainers also vary depending on the type of race track where the trainer is licensed. Premiums must be collected at the time the license is issued or renewed.

In 2012 the WHRC, the Washington Horsemen's Benevolent and Protective Association and the Department worked together to discuss new rules for risk classifications for certain horse racing employees and changes to how premiums would be assessed and collected. The WHRC has since adopted new rules that took effect in December 2012.

**Summary:**

The requirements that premiums be computed on a per license basis and that premiums be collected at the time the license is issued or renewed are removed. Instead, rates will be established by rules adopted by the Department and the WHRC. Premiums may vary according to the risk insured, as determined by rule, rather than based on the differences in working conditions at different tracks.

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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.*

References to "hotwalker," a term that is no longer used, are removed.

**Votes on Final Passage:**

House 92 0

Senate 48 0

**Effective:** July 28, 2013