

# FINAL BILL REPORT

## EHB 1887

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Synopsis as Enacted

**Brief Description:** Ordering consideration of increased educational options under vocational rehabilitation plans.

**Sponsors:** Representatives Sawyer, Ryu, Green and Freeman.

**House Committee on Labor & Workforce Development**  
**House Committee on Appropriations Subcommittee on Health & Human Services**  
**Senate Committee on Commerce & Labor**

### **Background:**

One of the primary purposes of the Industrial Insurance Act is to enable injured workers to become employable at gainful employment. The Department of Labor and Industries (Department) pays, or directs self-insurers to pay, the costs of vocational rehabilitation services when these services are necessary and likely to enable the injured worker to become employable at gainful employment.

The injured worker's vocational rehabilitation generally must be within the allowable plan approved by the Department and based on specific return-to-work priorities listed in statute. Priorities include returning the worker to the previous job or a new job with the same employer, placing the worker with a new employer, self-employment based on transferable skills, or retraining.

In 2007 the Legislature created a Vocational Rehabilitation Pilot Program for vocational rehabilitation plans approved between January 1, 2008, and June 30, 2013. Among other policy provisions, the pilot program created the Vocational Rehabilitation Subcommittee made up of representatives from business and labor. The subcommittee provides input and oversight of the pilot program and makes recommendations to the Department and the Legislature on any statutory changes needed.

### **Summary:**

The Vocational Rehabilitation Subcommittee must consider options that, under limited circumstances, would allow injured workers to attend baccalaureate institutions under their vocational rehabilitation plans. By December 31, 2013, the subcommittee must provide

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recommendations to the Department and the Legislature on statutory changes needed to develop these educational options.

**Votes on Final Passage:**

House	95	2
Senate	48	0

**Effective:** July 28, 2013