
SENATE BILL 6343

State of Washington 65th Legislature 2018 Regular Session

By Senators Brown, Keiser, Hasegawa, Palumbo, and Saldaña

Read first time 01/12/18. Referred to Committee on Labor & Commerce.

1 AN ACT Relating to establishing the healthy energy workers task
2 force; and adding a new section to chapter 70.98 RCW.

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

4 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** A new section is added to chapter 70.98
5 RCW to read as follows:

6 (1) Subject to the availability of amounts appropriated for this
7 specific purpose, the healthy energy workers task force is
8 established. The purpose of the healthy energy workers task force is
9 to develop recommendations for successfully diagnosing and treating
10 diseases or other health problems experienced by workers, including
11 contractors and subcontractors, who have performed work for the
12 United States at the Hanford site.

13 (2) The University of Washington, through the center of
14 excellence for chemically related illness at Harborview medical
15 center, and the department of labor and industries, shall provide
16 administrative support to the healthy energy workers task force,
17 including making arrangements for the inaugural meeting of the task
18 force and subsequent meetings of the task force.

19 (3) The healthy energy workers task force is composed of the
20 following members, who must be appointed by the governor, subject to
21 confirmation by the senate in accordance with RCW 43.06.092:

1 (a) An individual representing the United States department of
2 energy Richland operations office;

3 (b) An individual representing plumbers and steamfitters local
4 union 598;

5 (c) The director of the department of labor and industries, or
6 the director's designee;

7 (d) The secretary of the Washington state department of health,
8 or the secretary's designee;

9 (e) An individual representing an organization that contracts to
10 perform work for the United States at the Hanford site;

11 (f) An individual representing a labor union in Washington other
12 than the member appointed under (b) of this subsection; and

13 (g) An individual representing the Harborview medical center.

14 (4) Members are appointed for a term of four years and may be
15 reappointed.

16 (5) In addition to the members appointed to the healthy energy
17 workers task force under subsection (3) of this section, medical
18 professionals employed by the University of Washington or Harborview
19 medical center may be invited by the director of the department of
20 labor and industries, in consultation with the University of
21 Washington or Harborview medical center, to participate in an
22 advisory capacity in meetings of the healthy energy workers task
23 force. Individuals participating in an advisory capacity under this
24 subsection are not members of the task force and are not subject to
25 the appointment process established in this section. There is no
26 limit to the number of individuals who may participate in healthy
27 energy workers task force meetings in an advisory capacity under this
28 subsection.

29 (6) The healthy energy workers task force shall hold its
30 inaugural meeting by October 1, 2018. The task force may hold
31 subsequent meetings at its discretion, but must meet at least two
32 times per year.

33 (7) The healthy energy workers task force shall focus on the
34 following subjects:

35 (a) Research and development of protocols for diagnosing diseases
36 or other health problems that may be the result of exposure to
37 hazardous substances or other dangerous conditions at the Hanford
38 site;

39 (b) Research and development of patient monitoring or
40 surveillance strategies that will result in the collection of data

1 regarding long-term outcomes for workers who have been treated for
2 diseases or other health problems that may be linked to working at
3 the Hanford site;

4 (c) Surveying data and information from other states and
5 countries that may be helpful to developing strategies for diagnosing
6 and treating diseases or other health problems that may be linked to
7 working at the Hanford site; and

8 (d) Discussing and making recommendations regarding public health
9 programs that may be developed at the state level to benefit workers
10 who have worked, or are working, at the Hanford site.

11 (8) The healthy energy workers task force shall provide a report
12 to the legislature by December 1st each year beginning in 2019
13 documenting the activities of the task force and reporting on the
14 subjects listed in subsection (7) of this section. The department of
15 labor and industries may provide staff support to the task force for
16 the purpose of authoring the report and transmitting it to the
17 legislature. Any member of the task force may provide a minority
18 report as an appendix to the report submitted to the legislature
19 under this section.

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