H-2634.1

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**HOUSE BILL 2382**

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**State of Washington 68th Legislature 2024 Regular Session**

**By** Representatives Berry, Lekanoff, Reed, Bronoske, Fosse, Pollet, and Ormsby

AN ACT Relating to death benefits applicable to drivers of transportation network companies; amending RCW 51.16.250; and adding a new section to chapter 51.32 RCW.

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

NEW SECTION. **Sec.**  A new section is added to chapter 51.32 RCW to read as follows:

(1) In addition to the coverage provided in RCW 51.16.250, when a transportation network company driver's death results from an injury while the driver is logged onto the transportation network company's digital network as available for work, death benefits shall be payable in accordance with RCW 51.32.050.

(2) As applicable, for the purposes of this section, the definitions in RCW 49.46.300 apply.

(3) For the purposes of this section, the applicable statute of limitations begins upon the driver's death.

(4) The department may adopt rules to implement this section.

**Sec.**  RCW 51.16.250 and 2022 c 281 s 11 are each amended to read as follows:

(1) Beginning January 1, 2023, the department shall assess premiums for transportation network companies, as defined in RCW 49.46.300, in accordance with RCW 51.16.035 and this section, for workers' compensation coverage applicable to drivers, as defined in RCW 49.46.300, while the driver is engaged in passenger platform time and dispatch platform time, as those terms are defined in RCW 49.46.300.

(2) For the purposes of calculating the premium for drivers under subsection (1) of this section, the department shall multiply the total number of hours spent by drivers in passenger platform time and dispatch platform time on the transportation network company's driver platform by the rates established for taxicab companies. The department may subsequently adjust premiums in accordance with department rules.

(3) For a death that is covered under section 1 of this act, the cost of the benefits must be included in the consideration of rate increases for the risk class and not attributed to a single transportation network company.

(4) Transportation network companies, not qualifying as a self-insurer, shall insure with the state and shall, on or before the last day of January, April, July, and October of each year thereafter, furnish the department with a true and accurate statement of the hours for which drivers, as defined in RCW 49.46.300, were engaged in passenger platform time and dispatch platform time on the transportation network company's driver platform during the preceding calendar quarter and the total amount paid to such drivers engaged in passenger platform time on the transportation network company's driver platform during the preceding calendar quarter, and shall pay its premium based on the total passenger platform time and dispatch platform time to the appropriate fund. Premiums for a calendar quarter, whether reported or not, shall become due and delinquent on the day immediately following the last day of the month following the calendar quarter. The sufficiency of such statement shall be subject to the approval of the director: PROVIDED, That the director may in his or her discretion and for the effective administration of this title require a transportation network company in individual instances to furnish a supplementary report containing the name of each individual driver, his or her hours engaged in passenger platform time and dispatch platform time on the transportation network company's driver platform, and his or her compensation: PROVIDED FURTHER, That the department may promulgate rules and regulations in accordance with chapter 34.05 RCW to establish other reporting periods and payment due dates in lieu of reports and payments following each calendar quarter, and may also establish terms and conditions for payment of premiums and assessments based on estimated passenger platform time and dispatch platform time on the transportation network company's driver platform, with such payments being subject to approval as to sufficiency of the estimated passenger platform time and dispatch platform time on the transportation network company's driver platform by the department, and also subject to appropriate periodic adjustments made by the department based on actual passenger platform time and dispatch platform time on the transportation network company's driver platform.

((~~(4)~~)) (5) The department may adopt rules to carry out the purposes of this section, including rules providing for alternative reporting requirements.

((~~(5)~~)) (6) This section does not apply to any worker who is not a driver, and who is employed by the transportation network company. For those workers the processes for determining coverage, calculating premiums, reporting requirements, reporting periods, and payment due dates are subject to the provisions of this title that apply generally to employers and workers.

**--- END ---**