

SENATE BILL REPORT

HB 1927

As Passed Senate, March 1, 2024

Title: An act relating to reducing the number of days that a worker's temporary total disability must continue to receive industrial insurance compensation for the day of an injury and the three-day period following the injury.

Brief Description: Reducing the number of days that a worker's temporary total disability must continue to receive industrial insurance compensation for the day of an injury and the three-day period following the injury.

Sponsors: Representatives Bronoske, Berry, Ortiz-Self, Reed, Ormsby, Kloba, Doglio, Lekanoff, Fosse and Pollet.

Brief History: Passed House: 2/6/24, 60-37.

Committee Activity: Labor & Commerce: 2/15/24 [DP, DNP].

Floor Activity: Passed Senate: 3/1/24, 33-16.

Brief Summary of Bill

- Reduces the number of days from fourteen to seven that a temporary total disability must continue to receive workers' compensation time-loss benefits for the first three days following the injury.

SENATE COMMITTEE ON LABOR & COMMERCE

Majority Report: Do pass.

Signed by Senators Keiser, Chair; Conway, Vice Chair; Saldaña, Vice Chair; Hansen and Stanford.

Minority Report: Do not pass.

Signed by Senators King, Ranking Member; Braun, MacEwen and Schoesler.

Staff: Susan Jones (786-7404)

This analysis was prepared by non-partisan legislative staff for the use of legislative members in their deliberations. This analysis is not part of the legislation nor does it constitute a statement of legislative intent.

Background: Workers who are injured or disabled in the course of employment are entitled to certain benefits through the workers' compensation program, which is administered by the Department of Labor and Industries (L&I). Benefits may include medical costs, temporary wage replacement, vocational rehabilitation benefits, and permanent disabilities benefits.

A worker may be entitled to a partial replacement of wages, also referred to as time-loss compensation, if the worker is temporarily unable to work as a result of an occupational injury or disease. In order to qualify for time-loss compensation, a health care provider must certify that the worker is unable to work due to a work-related injury or illness, also referred to as a temporary total disability.

Time-loss compensation is paid to a worker only if the worker is unable to work for more than three days following the date of the injury. Further, the worker does not receive time-loss compensation for the day of the injury and those first three days unless they are still unable to work on the fourteenth day following the injury.

The amount of time-loss compensation is a percentage of the worker's typical wages, adjusted based on the worker's family status and number of dependents and subject to minimum and maximum amounts.

Summary of Bill: The number of days that a temporary total disability must continue to receive workers' compensation time-loss benefits for the first three days following the injury is reduced to seven days.

Appropriation: None.

Fiscal Note: Available.

Creates Committee/Commission/Task Force that includes Legislative members: No.

Effective Date: The bill contains several effective dates. Please refer to the bill.

Staff Summary of Public Testimony: No public hearing was held.

Persons Testifying: N/A

Persons Signed In To Testify But Not Testifying: N/A