
SENATE BILL 5548

State of Washington

69th Legislature

2025 Regular Session

By Senator Shewmake

1 AN ACT Relating to workers' compensation benefits; amending RCW
2 51.32.010 and 51.32.060; and providing an effective date.

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

4 **Sec. 1.** RCW 51.32.010 and 1977 ex.s. c 350 s 37 are each amended
5 to read as follows:

6 ((Each)) (1) Except as provided in subsection (2) of this
7 section, each worker injured in the course of ~~((his or her))~~ the
8 worker's employment, or ~~((his or her))~~ the worker's family or
9 dependents in case of death of the worker, shall receive compensation
10 in accordance with this chapter, and, except as in this title
11 otherwise provided, such payment shall be in lieu of any and all
12 rights of action whatsoever against any person whomsoever(~~+~~
13 ~~PROVIDED, That if an injured~~)).

14 (2)(a) If an injured worker, or the surviving spouse of an
15 injured worker shall not have the legal custody of a child for, or on
16 account of whom payments are required to be made under this title,
17 such payment or payments shall be made to the person or persons
18 having the legal custody of such child but only for the periods of
19 time after the department has been notified of the fact of such legal
20 custody, and it shall be the duty of any such person or persons

1 receiving payments because of legal custody of any child immediately
2 to notify the department of any change in such legal custody.

3 (b) (i) The payment or payments to be made to the person or
4 persons having the legal custody of a worker's child shall be two
5 percent of the worker's wages, excluding the employer's payment or
6 contribution for health care benefits.

7 (ii) The payment to be made to the worker or surviving spouse
8 under this chapter shall be reduced by the amount of the payment or
9 payments to be made to person or persons having the legal custody of
10 a worker's child or children under (b) (i) of this subsection (2).

11 **Sec. 2.** RCW 51.32.060 and 2007 c 284 s 2 are each amended to
12 read as follows:

13 (1) ~~(When)~~ For claims filed on or after July 1, 2026, when the
14 supervisor of industrial insurance shall determine that permanent
15 total disability results from the injury, the worker shall receive
16 monthly during the period of such disability, except as provided in
17 RCW 51.32.010:

18 (a) One hundred percent of the employer's payment or contribution
19 for health care benefits, unless the employer continues ongoing and
20 current payment or contributions for these benefits at the same level
21 as provided at the time of injury; and

22 (b) A percentage of the worker's wages, excluding the worker's
23 employer's payment or contribution for health care benefits, as
24 follows:

<u>Worker's status</u>	<u>Percentage of the</u> <u>worker's wages</u>
<u>Unmarried with no children</u>	<u>60 percent</u>
<u>Unmarried with one child or married with no children</u>	<u>65 percent</u>
<u>Unmarried with two children or married with one child</u>	<u>67 percent</u>
<u>Unmarried with three children or married with two children</u>	<u>69 percent</u>
<u>Unmarried with four children or married with three children</u>	<u>71 percent</u>
<u>Unmarried with five children or married with four children</u>	<u>73 percent</u>
<u>Unmarried with six children or married with five children</u>	<u>75 percent</u>

34 (2) For claims filed before July 1, 2026, when the supervisor of
35 industrial insurance shall determine that permanent total disability

1 results from the injury, the worker shall receive monthly during the
2 period of such disability:

3 (a) If married at the time of injury, sixty-five percent of his
4 or her wages.

5 (b) If married with one child at the time of injury, sixty-seven
6 percent of his or her wages.

7 (c) If married with two children at the time of injury,
8 sixty-nine percent of his or her wages.

9 (d) If married with three children at the time of injury,
10 seventy-one percent of his or her wages.

11 (e) If married with four children at the time of injury,
12 seventy-three percent of his or her wages.

13 (f) If married with five or more children at the time of injury,
14 seventy-five percent of his or her wages.

15 (g) If unmarried at the time of the injury, sixty percent of his
16 or her wages.

17 (h) If unmarried with one child at the time of injury, sixty-two
18 percent of his or her wages.

19 (i) If unmarried with two children at the time of injury,
20 sixty-four percent of his or her wages.

21 (j) If unmarried with three children at the time of injury,
22 sixty-six percent of his or her wages.

23 (k) If unmarried with four children at the time of injury,
24 sixty-eight percent of his or her wages.

25 (l) If unmarried with five or more children at the time of
26 injury, seventy percent of his or her wages.

27 ~~((+2))~~ (3) For any period of time where both ~~((husband and~~
28 ~~wife))~~ spouses are entitled to compensation as temporarily or totally
29 disabled workers, only that spouse having the higher wages of the two
30 shall be entitled to claim their child or children for compensation
31 purposes.

32 ~~((+3))~~ (4) In case of permanent total disability, if the
33 character of the injury is such as to render the worker so physically
34 helpless as to require the hiring of the services of an attendant,
35 the department shall make monthly payments to such attendant for such
36 services as long as such requirement continues, but such payments
37 shall not obtain or be operative while the worker is receiving care
38 under or pursuant to the provisions of chapter 51.36 RCW and RCW
39 51.04.105.

1 (~~(4)~~) (5) Should any further accident result in the permanent
2 total disability of an injured worker, (~~he or she~~) the injured
3 worker shall receive the pension to which (~~he or she~~) the injured
4 worker would be entitled, notwithstanding the payment of a lump sum
5 for (~~his or her~~) the injured worker's prior injury.

6 (~~(5)~~) (6) In no event shall the monthly payments provided in
7 this section:

8 (a) Exceed the applicable percentage of the average monthly wage
9 in the state as computed under the provisions of RCW 51.08.018 as
10 follows:

AFTER	PERCENTAGE
June 30, 1993	105%
June 30, 1994	110%
June 30, 1995	115%
June 30, 1996	120%

16 (b) For dates of injury or disease manifestation after July 1,
17 2008, be less than fifteen percent of the average monthly wage in the
18 state as computed under RCW 51.08.018 plus an additional ten dollars
19 per month if a worker is married and an additional ten dollars per
20 month for each child of the worker up to a maximum of five children
21 for claims filed before July 1, 2026, and six children for claims
22 filed on or after July 1, 2026. However, if the monthly payment
23 computed under this subsection (~~(5)~~) (6)(b) is greater than one
24 hundred percent of the wages of the worker as determined under RCW
25 51.08.178, the monthly payment due to the worker shall be equal to
26 the greater of the monthly wages of the worker or the minimum benefit
27 set forth in this section on June 30, 2008.

28 The limitations under this subsection shall not apply to the
29 payments provided for in subsection (~~(3)~~) (4) of this section.

30 (~~(6)~~) (7) In the case of new or reopened claims, if the
31 supervisor of industrial insurance determines that, at the time of
32 filing or reopening, the worker is voluntarily retired and is no
33 longer attached to the workforce, benefits shall not be paid under
34 this section.

35 (~~(7)~~) (8) The benefits provided by this section are subject to
36 modification under RCW 51.32.067.

1 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 3.** This act takes effect July 1, 2026.

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