

**RCW 51.32.180 Occupational diseases—Limitation.** Every worker who suffers disability from an occupational disease in the course of employment under the mandatory or elective adoption provisions of this title, or his or her family and dependents in case of death of the worker from such disease or infection, shall receive the same compensation benefits and medical, surgical and hospital care and treatment as would be paid and provided for a worker injured or killed in employment under this title, except as follows: (a) [(1)] This section and RCW 51.16.040 shall not apply where the last exposure to the hazards of the disease or infection occurred prior to January 1, 1937; and (b) [(2)] for claims filed on or after July 1, 1988, the rate of compensation for occupational diseases shall be established as of the date the disease requires medical treatment or becomes totally or partially disabling, whichever occurs first, and without regard to the date of the contraction of the disease or the date of filing the claim. [1988 c 161 s 5; 1977 ex.s. c 350 s 53; 1971 ex.s. c 289 s 49; 1961 c 23 s 51.32.180. Prior: 1959 c 308 s 19; prior: 1941 c 235 s 1, part; 1939 c 135 s 1, part; 1937 c 212 s 1, part; Rem. Supp. 1941 s 7679-1, part.]

**Benefit increases—Application to certain retrospective rating agreements—1988 c 161:** See notes following RCW 51.32.050.

**Effective dates—Severability—1971 ex.s. c 289:** See RCW 51.98.060 and 51.98.070.