
Commerce & Labor Committee

HB 1504

Brief Description: Establishing penalty for violation of Title 51 RCW.

Sponsors: Representatives Conway and Wood.

Brief Summary of Bill

- Provides that every person, firm or corporation who violates or fails to obey, observe or comply with the Industrial Insurance Act is subject to a penalty of not to exceed \$500.

Hearing Date: 2/1/07

Staff: Sarah Beznoska (786-7109).

Background:

Violations of the Industrial Insurance Act (Act) are subject to various monetary penalties. These penalties include:

- A \$250 penalty for an employer's failure or refusal to immediately report an accident to the Department of Labor and Industries (Department). (RCW 51.28.025)
- A penalty of up to \$250 for any physician or licensed advanced registered nurse practitioner who fails, neglects, or refuses to file a required report with the Department within five days of the date of treatment or who fails or refuses to render all necessary assistance to the injured worker. (RCW 51.48.060)
- A \$500 penalty, or a sum double the amount of premiums incurred prior to securing payment of compensation under the Act, whichever is greater, for any employer who fails to secure payment of compensation for workers covered under the Act. (RCW 51.48.010)
- A \$500 penalty, or 25 percent of the amount due, whichever is greater, for a self-insured employer that unreasonably delays or refuses to pay benefits as they become due. (RCW 51.48.017)

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- A maximum \$250 dollar penalty, or 200 percent of the quarterly tax, whichever is greater, for every employer who fails to keep and preserve records required by the Act or fails to make reports required by the Act. (RCW 51.48.030)
- A maximum \$500 penalty for every person, firm or corporation who violates or fails to obey, observe or comply with any rule of the Department.

The director of the Department has statutory authority to waive a penalty charged under the Act.

Summary of Bill:

Every person, firm or corporation who violates or fails to obey, observe or comply with the Industrial Insurance Act is subject to a penalty of not to exceed \$500.

Rules Authority: The bill does not address the rule-making powers of an agency.

Appropriation: None.

Fiscal Note: Available.

Effective Date: The bill takes effect 90 days after adjournment of session in which bill is passed.