

# SENATE BILL REPORT

## SSB 5858

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As Passed Senate, March 13, 1995

**Title:** An act relating to prompt payment of industrial insurance awards.

**Brief Description:** Providing for prompt payment of industrial insurance awards.

**Sponsors:** Senate Committee on Labor, Commerce & Trade (originally sponsored by Senators Prentice, Heavey, Franklin, Wojahn, Fairley, Snyder and McAuliffe).

**Brief History:**

**Committee Activity:** Labor, Commerce & Trade: 2/20/95, 3/1/95 [DPS].  
Passed Senate, 3/13/95, 49-0.

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### SENATE COMMITTEE ON LABOR, COMMERCE & TRADE

**Majority Report:** That Substitute Senate Bill No. 5858 be substituted therefor, and the substitute bill do pass.

Signed by Senators Pelz, Chair; Heavey, Vice Chair; Deccio, Franklin, Fraser, Hale, Newhouse, Palmer and Wojahn.

**Staff:** Jack Brummel (786-7428)

**Background:** The state's industrial insurance statutes do not contain provisions specifying when final compensation orders must be complied with.

**Summary of Bill:** Final compensation orders must be complied with by the Department of Labor and Industries within 60 days. Individuals entitled to compensation under a final order may institute proceedings to enforce the order and may be awarded \$500 from a court imposed penalty against the non-payor, plus reasonable costs and attorneys' fees, and an additional \$500 for each additional month of noncompliance.

**Appropriation:** None.

**Fiscal Note:** Requested on February 10, 1995.

**Effective Date:** Ninety days after adjournment of session in which bill is passed.

**Testimony For:** It can take eight or nine months to get payment from the department. The penalty for nonpayment should be higher.

**Testimony Against:** Employers or the department shouldn't be penalized if the delay is caused by waiting for workers' documents.

**Testified:** Kate Austin, Daniel Wigdahl, Rebecca Alani, WINS (pro); Wayne Lieb, WSTLA (pro); Clif Finch, AWB (con).

