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SECOND SUBSTITUTE HOUSE BILL 1451

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State of Washington

54th Legislature

1996 Regular Session

By House Committee on Commerce & Labor (originally sponsored by Representatives Mielke, Lisk, McMorris, Sheldon, Mastin, Horn, Thompson, Hargrove, Sherstad and Basich)

Read first time 01/31/96.

1 AN ACT Relating to expansion of employer workers' compensation  
2 group self-insurance; amending RCW 48.62.011; adding a new chapter to  
3 Title 51 RCW; and prescribing penalties.

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

5 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** (1) This chapter applies to self-insurance  
6 groups under this title, except for self-insurance groups covered under  
7 RCW 51.14.150. However, a self-insurance group under RCW  
8 51.14.150(2)(c) may elect to be covered under this chapter.

9 (2)(a) Except as otherwise provided in (b) of this subsection,  
10 self-insurance groups under this chapter are subject to all the  
11 requirements applying to self-insured employers under this title.

12 (b) With the exception of RCW 51.14.080, 51.14.095, 51.14.100,  
13 51.14.110, 51.14.120, 51.14.130, and 51.14.140, chapter 51.14 RCW does  
14 not apply to self-insurance groups under this chapter.

15 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** Unless the context clearly requires  
16 otherwise, the definitions in this section apply throughout this  
17 chapter.

1 (1) "Administrator" means an individual, partnership, or  
2 corporation engaged by a self-insurance group's board of trustees to  
3 carry out the policies established by the group's board of trustees and  
4 to provide day-to-day management of the group.

5 (2) "Insolvent" or "insolvency" means the inability of a self-  
6 insurance group to pay its outstanding lawful obligations as they  
7 mature in the regular course of business, as shown either by an excess  
8 of its required reserves and other liabilities over its assets or by it  
9 not having sufficient assets to reinsure all of its outstanding  
10 liabilities after paying all accrued claims owed by it.

11 (3) "Net premium" means premium derived from standard premium  
12 adjusted by any advance premium discounts.

13 (4) "Service company" means any person or entity that provides  
14 services to a self-insurance group not provided by the administrator,  
15 including but not limited to:

16 (a) Claims adjustment;

17 (b) Safety engineering;

18 (c) Compilation of statistics and the preparation of premium, loss,  
19 and tax reports;

20 (d) Preparation of other required self-insurance reports;

21 (e) Development of members' assessments and fees; and

22 (f) Administration of a claims fund.

23 (5) "Standard premium" means the premium derived from the manual  
24 rates adjusted by experience modification factors but before advance  
25 premium discounts.

26 (6) "Self-insurance group" or "group" means: (a) A not-for-profit  
27 group consisting of five or more employers who are engaged in the same  
28 or similar type of business and who enter into agreements to pool  
29 assets to cover the employers' liabilities under this title; or (b) two  
30 or more local government entities as specified in section 4 of this  
31 act.

32 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 3.** No person, group, or other entity shall act  
33 as a self-insurance group under this chapter unless it has been issued  
34 a certificate of approval by the director.

35 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 4.** Two or more local government entities, as  
36 defined in RCW 48.62.021, that are jointly self-insured under chapter  
37 48.62 RCW may also apply for and be issued a certificate of approval

1 under this chapter as a workers' compensation self-insurance group to  
2 cover the entities' liabilities under this title. The entities may  
3 contract for or hire personnel to provide administrative services and  
4 other services as required or permitted by this chapter and shall  
5 possess any other powers and perform all other functions reasonably  
6 necessary to carry out the purposes of this chapter. The entities  
7 applying for a certificate of approval under this chapter shall provide  
8 notice of the application to the state risk manager, as defined in RCW  
9 48.62.021.

10 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 5.** (1) A proposed self-insurance group shall  
11 file with the director its application for a certificate of approval as  
12 a self-insurance group accompanied by a nonrefundable filing fee in an  
13 amount of one hundred fifty dollars or such larger sum as the director  
14 finds necessary for the administrative costs of evaluating the group's  
15 qualifications. The application shall include the group's name,  
16 location of its principal office, date of organization, name and  
17 address of each member, and such other information as the director may  
18 reasonably require together with the following information:

19 (a) Proof of compliance with the provisions of subsection (2) of  
20 this section;

21 (b) A copy of the articles of the group, if any;

22 (c) A copy of agreements with the administrator and with any  
23 service company;

24 (d) A copy of the bylaws of the proposed group;

25 (e) A copy of the group's safety and occupational health plan;

26 (f) A copy of the agreement between the group and each member  
27 securing the payment of each member's liability to its employees  
28 covered by this title, and the payment of assessments under section 18  
29 of this act;

30 (g) A copy of the indemnity agreement jointly and severally binding  
31 each member for the liability of the group and other members of the  
32 group under this title;

33 (h) Designation of the initial board of trustees and administrator;

34 (i) The address in this state where the books and records,  
35 including claims files, of the group will be maintained at all times;

36 (j) A pro forma financial statement on a form acceptable to the  
37 director showing the financial ability of the group to pay the  
38 obligations of its members under this title; and

1 (k) Proof of payment to the group by each member of not less than  
2 twenty-five percent of that member's first year estimated annual net  
3 premium on a date prescribed by the director. Each payment shall be  
4 considered to be part of the first year premium payment of each member  
5 if the proposed group is granted a certificate of approval.

6 (2) To obtain and maintain its certificate of approval, a self-  
7 insurance group shall comply with the following requirements as well as  
8 any other requirements established by rule of the director:

9 (a) A combined net worth of all members of the group of at least  
10 two million dollars;

11 (b) Security in the form and amount prescribed by the director  
12 which shall be provided by a surety bond, security deposit, letter of  
13 credit, or financial security endorsement, or any combination thereof.  
14 If a surety bond is used to meet the security requirement, it shall be  
15 issued by a corporate surety company authorized to transact business in  
16 this state. If a security deposit is used to meet the security  
17 requirement, securities shall be limited to: Bonds or other evidences  
18 of indebtedness issued, assumed, or guaranteed by the United States, or  
19 by an agency or instrumentality thereof; certificates of deposit in a  
20 federally insured bank; shares or savings deposits in a federally  
21 insured savings and loan association or credit union; or any bond or  
22 security issued by a state of the United States and backed by the full  
23 faith and credit of the state. Any such securities shall be deposited  
24 in an escrow account in a depository designated by the director.  
25 Interest accruing on a negotiable security so deposited shall be  
26 collected and transmitted to the depositor provided the depositor is  
27 not in default. A financial security endorsement issued as part of an  
28 acceptable excess insurance contract may be used to meet all or part of  
29 the security requirement. The bond, security deposit, letter of  
30 credit, or financial security endorsement shall be for the benefit of  
31 the state solely to pay claims and associated expenses and payable on  
32 the failure of the group to pay workers' compensation benefits that it  
33 is legally obligated to pay under this title. The director may  
34 establish and adjust, from time to time, requirements for the amount of  
35 security based on differences among groups in their size, types of  
36 employment, years in existence, and other relevant factors;

37 (c) Specific and aggregate excess insurance in an approved form, in  
38 a stated amount, and by an insurance company authorized to transact  
39 insurance business in the state of Washington;

1 (d) An estimated annual standard premium of at least one million  
2 dollars during a group's first year of operation. Thereafter, the  
3 annual standard premium per member shall be at least five hundred  
4 dollars;

5 (e) An indemnity agreement jointly and severally binding the group  
6 and each member thereof to meet the obligations of each member under  
7 this title. The indemnity agreement shall be in a form prescribed by  
8 the director and shall include minimum uniform substantive provisions  
9 prescribed by the director. Subject to the director's approval, a  
10 group may add other provisions needed because of its particular  
11 circumstances;

12 (f) A fidelity bond for the administrator in a form and amount  
13 prescribed by the director; and

14 (g) A fidelity bond for the service company in a form and amount  
15 prescribed by the director. The director may also require the service  
16 company providing claim services to furnish a performance bond in a  
17 form and amount prescribed by the director.

18 (3) A group shall notify the director of any change in the  
19 information required to be filed under subsection (1) of this section  
20 or in the manner of its compliance with subsection (2) of this section  
21 no later than thirty days after the change.

22 (4) The director shall evaluate the information provided by the  
23 application required to be filed under subsection (1) of this section  
24 to assure that no gaps in funding exist and that funds necessary to pay  
25 benefits under this title will be available on a timely basis.

26 (5) The director shall act on a completed application for a  
27 certificate of approval as a self-insurance group within sixty days.  
28 If, because of the number of applications, the director is unable to  
29 act on an application within this period, the director shall have an  
30 additional sixty days to so act.

31 (6) The director shall issue a certificate of approval on finding  
32 that the proposed self-insurance group has met all the requirements of  
33 this chapter, or the director shall issue an order denying the  
34 certificate on finding that the proposed group does not meet all  
35 requirements. An order denying a certificate shall set forth the  
36 reasons for the denial.

37 (7) Each self-insurance group shall be deemed to have appointed the  
38 director as its attorney-in-fact to receive service of legal process  
39 issued against it in this state. The appointment shall be irrevocable,

1 shall bind any successor in interest, and shall remain in effect as  
2 long as there is in this state any obligation or liability of the group  
3 for benefits under this title.

4 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 6.** (1) A certificate of approval issued by the  
5 director to a self-insurance group authorizes the group to carry its  
6 own liability under this title to its employees covered by this title.  
7 The certificate of approval remains in effect until terminated at the  
8 request of the group or revoked by the director pursuant to section 21  
9 of this act.

10 (2)(a) The director may grant the request of any self-insurance  
11 group to terminate its certificate of approval, effective not less than  
12 thirty days after the request for termination. However, the  
13 termination of a group under this section may not be effective until  
14 each member of the group has filed with the director for industrial  
15 insurance coverage under this title, has become a member of another  
16 self-insurance group, has become an approved self-insurer, or has  
17 ceased being an employer.

18 (b) A self-insurance group that has had its certificate of approval  
19 terminated under this section must maintain surety deemed sufficient in  
20 the director's discretion to cover the entire liability of the group to  
21 its employees for injuries or occupational diseases that occurred  
22 during the period that the group was self-insured.

23 (3) Subject to the approval of the director, a group may merge with  
24 another group engaged in the same or similar type of business only if  
25 the resulting group assumes in full all obligations of the merging  
26 groups. The director may hold a hearing on the merger and shall do so  
27 if any party, including a member of either group, so requests.

28 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 7.** Each self-insurance group shall be operated  
29 by a board of trustees which shall consist of not less than five  
30 persons elected by the members of a group for stated terms of office.  
31 At least two-thirds of the trustees shall be employees, officers, or  
32 directors of members of the group. The group's administrator, service  
33 company, or any owner, officer, or employee of, or any other person  
34 affiliated with such administrator or service company shall not serve  
35 on the board of trustees of the group. All trustees shall be residents  
36 of this state or officers of corporations authorized to do business in  
37 this state. The board of trustees of each group shall ensure that all

1 claims under this title are paid promptly and shall take all necessary  
2 precautions to safeguard the assets of the group, including all of the  
3 following:

4 (1) The board of trustees shall:

5 (a) Maintain responsibility for all moneys collected or disbursed  
6 from the group and segregate all moneys into a claims fund account and  
7 an administrative fund account. At least seventy percent of the net  
8 premium shall be placed into a designated depository for the sole  
9 purpose of paying claims, allocated claims expenses, reinsurance or  
10 excess insurance, and special fund contributions, including second  
11 injury and other loss-related funds. This shall be called the claims  
12 fund account. The remaining net premium shall be placed into a  
13 designated depository for the payment of taxes, general regulatory fees  
14 and assessments, and administrative costs. This shall be called the  
15 administrative fund account. The director may approve an  
16 administrative fund account of more than thirty percent and a claims  
17 fund account of less than seventy percent only if the group shows to  
18 the director's satisfaction that more than thirty percent is needed for  
19 an effective safety and loss control program or the group's aggregate  
20 excess insurance attaches at less than seventy percent;

21 (b) Maintain minutes of its meetings and make such minutes  
22 available to the director;

23 (c) Designate an administrator to carry out the policies  
24 established by the board of trustees and to provide day-to-day  
25 management of the group, and delineate in the written minutes of its  
26 meetings the areas of authority it delegates to the administrator; and

27 (d) Retain an independent certified public accountant to prepare  
28 the statement of financial condition required by section 11(1) of this  
29 act.

30 (2) The board of trustees shall not:

31 (a) Extend credit to individual members for payment of a premium,  
32 except pursuant to payment plans approved by the director; or

33 (b) Borrow any moneys from the group or in the name of the group  
34 except in the ordinary course of business without first advising the  
35 director of the nature and purpose of the loan and obtaining prior  
36 approval from the director.

37 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 8.** (1) An employer joining a self-insurance  
38 group after the group has been issued a certificate of approval shall

1 submit an application for membership to the board of trustees or its  
2 administrator, and enter into the indemnity agreement required by  
3 section 5(2)(e) of this act. Membership may take effect no earlier  
4 than the date of approval of the application. The application for  
5 membership and its approval shall be maintained as permanent records of  
6 the board of trustees and a copy filed with the director.

7 (2) Individual members of a group shall be subject to cancellation  
8 by the group pursuant to the group's bylaws. In addition, individual  
9 members may elect to terminate their participation in the group. The  
10 group shall notify the director of the termination or cancellation of  
11 a member within ten days and shall maintain coverage of each canceled  
12 or terminated member for thirty days after such notice, at the  
13 terminating member's expense, unless the group is notified sooner by  
14 the department that the canceled or terminated member has filed with  
15 the director for industrial insurance under this title, has become an  
16 approved self-insurer, has become a member of another self-insurance  
17 group, or has ceased being an employer.

18 (3) The group shall pay all benefits under this title for which  
19 each member incurs liability during its period of membership. A member  
20 who elects to terminate its membership or is canceled by a group  
21 remains jointly and severally liable for the obligations under this  
22 title of the group and its members that were incurred during the  
23 canceled or terminated member's period of membership.

24 (4) A group member is not relieved of its liabilities under this  
25 title incurred during its period of membership except through payment  
26 by the group or the member of the liabilities.

27 (5) The insolvency or bankruptcy of a member does not relieve the  
28 group or any other member of liability for the payment of any  
29 obligations under this title incurred during the insolvent or bankrupt  
30 member's period of membership.

31 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 9.** (1) No service company or its employees,  
32 officers, or directors may be an employee, officer, or director of or  
33 have either a direct or indirect financial interest in an  
34 administrator. No administrator or its employees, officers, or  
35 directors may be an employee, officer, or director of or have either a  
36 direct or indirect financial interest in a service company.

37 (2) The service contract shall state that unless the director  
38 permits or requires otherwise the service company shall handle, to



1 their conclusion, all claims and other obligations incurred during the  
2 contract period.

3 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 10.** Except for an employee of a self-insurance  
4 group, its administrator, or its service company, any person soliciting  
5 membership in a self-insurance group under this chapter must have a  
6 solicitation permit as provided in chapter 48.06 RCW.

7 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 11.** (1) Each self-insurance group shall submit  
8 to the director a statement of financial condition audited by an  
9 independent certified public accountant on or before the last day of  
10 the sixth month following the end of the group's fiscal year. The  
11 financial statement shall be on a form prescribed by the director and  
12 shall include, but not be limited to, actuarially appropriate reserves  
13 for known claims and expenses associated therewith, claims incurred but  
14 not reported and expenses associated therewith, unearned premiums, and  
15 bad debts, which reserves shall be shown as liabilities. An actuarial  
16 opinion regarding reserves for known claims and expenses associated  
17 therewith and claims incurred but not reported and expenses associated  
18 therewith shall be included in the audited financial statement. The  
19 actuarial opinion shall be approved by the director or be given by a  
20 member of the American academy of actuaries or other qualified loss  
21 reserve specialist as defined in the annual statement adopted by the  
22 national association of insurance commissioners.

23 (2) The director may prescribe the format and frequency of other  
24 reports which may include, but shall not be limited to, payroll audit  
25 reports, summary loss reports, and quarterly financial statements.

26 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 12.** No person may make a material  
27 misrepresentation or omission of a material fact in connection with the  
28 solicitation of membership in a self-insurance group.

29 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 13.** Funds not needed for current obligations  
30 may be invested by a self-insurance group's board of trustees in  
31 accordance with chapter 48.13 RCW.

32 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 14.** (1) Every self-insurance group shall adhere  
33 to the uniform classification system, uniform experience rating plan,

1 and manual rates and rules filed with the director by an advisory  
2 organization designated by the director.

3 (2) Premium contributions to the group shall be determined by  
4 applying the manual rates and rules to the appropriate classification  
5 of each member which shall be adjusted by each member's experience  
6 credit or debit. Subject to approval by the director, premium  
7 contributions may also be reduced by an advance premium discount  
8 reflecting the group's expense levels and loss experience. A group may  
9 apply to the director for permission to make its own rates, and if  
10 permission is granted, the rates must be based on at least five years  
11 of the group's experience.

12 (3) Each group shall be audited at least annually by an auditor  
13 acceptable to the director to verify proper classifications, experience  
14 rating, payroll, and rates. A report of the audit shall be filed with  
15 the director in a form acceptable to the director. A group or any  
16 member thereof may request a hearing on any objection to the  
17 classification. If the director determines that as a result of an  
18 improper classification a member's premium contribution is  
19 insufficient, the director shall order the group to assess that member  
20 an amount equal to the deficiency. If the director determines that as  
21 a result of an improper classification a member's premium is excessive,  
22 the director shall order the group to refund to the member the excess  
23 collected. The audit shall be at the expense of the group.

24 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 15.** (1) Any moneys for a fund year in excess of  
25 the amount necessary to fund all obligations under this title for that  
26 fund year may be declared to be refundable by the self-insurance  
27 group's board of trustees not less than twelve months after the end of  
28 the fund year.

29 (2) Each member shall be given a written description of the refund  
30 plan at the time of application for membership. A refund for any fund  
31 year shall be paid only to those employers who remain participants in  
32 the group for the entire fund year. Payment of a refund based on a  
33 previous fund year shall not be contingent on continued membership in  
34 the group after that fund year.

35 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 16.** (1) Each self-insurance group shall  
36 establish to the satisfaction of the director a premium payment plan  
37 which shall include an initial payment by each member of at least

1 twenty-five percent of that member's annual premium before the start of  
2 the group's fund year and payment of the balance of each member's  
3 annual premium in monthly or quarterly installments.

4 (2) Each group shall establish and maintain actuarially appropriate  
5 loss reserves which shall include reserves for known claims and  
6 expenses associated therewith and claims incurred but not reported and  
7 expenses associated therewith.

8 (3) Each group shall establish and maintain bad debt reserves based  
9 on the historical experience of the group or other groups.

10 NEW SECTION. Sec. 17. (1) If the assets of a self-insurance group  
11 are at any time insufficient to enable the group to discharge its  
12 liabilities under this title and to maintain the reserves required of  
13 it under this chapter, it shall forthwith make up the deficiency or  
14 levy an assessment on its members for the amount needed to make up the  
15 deficiency.

16 (2) In the event of a deficiency in any fund year, the deficiency  
17 shall be made up immediately from surplus from a fund year other than  
18 the current fund year, administrative funds, assessment of the  
19 membership if ordered by the group, or such alternative method as the  
20 director approves or directs. The director shall be notified prior to  
21 any transfer of surplus funds from one fund year to another.

22 (3)(a) If the group fails to assess its members or to otherwise  
23 make up such deficit within thirty days, the director shall order it to  
24 do so.

25 (b) If the group fails to make the required assessment of its  
26 members within thirty days after the director orders it to do so, or if  
27 the deficiency is not fully made up within sixty days after the date on  
28 which such assessment is made, or within such longer period of time as  
29 specified by the director, the group shall be deemed to be insolvent.

30 (c) The director shall proceed against an insolvent group in the  
31 same manner as the director would proceed against an insolvent self-  
32 insurer under chapter 51.14 RCW.

33 (d) If a self-insurance group is liquidated, the director shall  
34 levy an assessment on its members for an amount determined by the  
35 director to be necessary to discharge all liabilities of the group,  
36 including the reasonable costs of liquidation.

37 (4) A self-insurance group insolvency trust shall be established  
38 following the rules pursuant to RCW 51.14.077.

1        NEW SECTION.    **Sec. 18.**    If liquidation occurs under section 17 of  
2 this act, after exhausting the security required under section 5(2)(b)  
3 of this act, the director shall levy an assessment against all self-  
4 insurance groups under this chapter to assure prompt payment of such  
5 benefits.    The assessment on each group shall be based on the  
6 proportion that the premium of each group bears to the total premium of  
7 all groups under this chapter.    The director may exempt a group from  
8 assessment on finding that the payment of the assessment would render  
9 the group insolvent.    Such assessment shall not relieve any member of  
10 an insolvent group of its joint and several liability.    After any such  
11 assessment is made, the director shall take action to enforce the joint  
12 and several liability provisions of the insolvent group's indemnity  
13 agreement, and shall recoup all costs incurred by the director in  
14 enforcing such joint and several liability provisions, amounts that the  
15 director assessed any other groups pursuant to this section, and any  
16 obligations included within section 17(3)(d) of this act.

17        NEW SECTION.    **Sec. 19.**    After notice and opportunity for a hearing,  
18 the director may impose a monetary penalty on any person or self-  
19 insurance group found to be in violation of any provision of this  
20 chapter or of any rules adopted under this chapter.    Such monetary  
21 penalty shall not exceed one thousand dollars for each violation and  
22 shall not exceed ten thousand dollars in the aggregate.    The amount of  
23 any monetary penalty shall be paid to the director for deposit in the  
24 state general fund.

25        NEW SECTION.    **Sec. 20.**    (1) After notice and opportunity for a  
26 hearing, the director may issue an order requiring a person or self-  
27 insurance group to cease and desist from engaging in an act or practice  
28 found to be in violation of this chapter or of any rules adopted under  
29 this chapter.

30        (2) On a finding, after notice and opportunity for a hearing, that  
31 any person or self-insurance group has violated a cease and desist  
32 order, the director may do either or both of the following:

33        (a) Impose a monetary penalty of not more than ten thousand dollars  
34 for each violation of the order not to exceed an aggregate monetary  
35 penalty of one hundred thousand dollars; or

36        (b) Revoke the group's certificate of approval.

1        NEW SECTION.    **Sec. 21.**    (1) After notice and opportunity for a  
2 hearing, the director may revoke a self-insurance group's certificate  
3 of approval if it is found to be insolvent, fails to pay a regulatory  
4 fee, assessment, or special fund contribution imposed on it, or fails  
5 to comply with any of the provisions of this chapter, with any rules  
6 adopted under this chapter, or with any lawful order of the director,  
7 within the time prescribed. In addition, the director may revoke a  
8 group's certificate of approval if, after notice and opportunity for a  
9 hearing, the director finds that the certificate of approval that was  
10 issued to the group was obtained by fraud, that there was a material  
11 misrepresentation in the application for the certificate of approval,  
12 or that the group or its administrator has misappropriated, converted,  
13 illegally withheld, or refused to pay over on proper demand any moneys  
14 that belong to a member, an employee of a member, or a person otherwise  
15 entitled thereto and that have been entrusted to the group or its  
16 administrator in its fiduciary capacities.

17        (2) The director shall serve on the self-insurance group,  
18 personally or by certified mail, a notice of intention to revoke the  
19 group's certificate of approval, which notice shall describe the nature  
20 and location of the plants or operations involved and the specific  
21 nature of the reasons for the decision. The notice shall include: (a)  
22 The period of time within which the grounds for revocation existed or  
23 arose; (b) a directive to the group specifying the manner in which the  
24 grounds may be eliminated; and (c) the date, not less than thirty days  
25 after the self-insurer's receipt of the notice, when the certificate of  
26 approval will be withdrawn in the absence of a satisfactory elimination  
27 of the grounds for withdrawal of the certificate.

28        (3) An appeal of any action by the director under this section may  
29 be taken by the self-insurance group. Proceedings on the appeal shall  
30 be as prescribed in this title. Appeal by a group of a notice of  
31 intention to withdraw a certificate of approval or to take corrective  
32 action shall not act as a stay of the withdrawal or corrective action  
33 unless the board or court, for good cause shown, orders otherwise.

34        NEW SECTION.    **Sec. 22.**    The director may adopt rules to implement  
35 this chapter, including rules providing for administrative assessments  
36 of self-insurance groups under this chapter.

1        NEW SECTION.    **Sec. 23.**    If any provision of this act or its  
2 application to any person or circumstance is held invalid, the  
3 remainder of the act or the application of the provision to other  
4 persons or circumstances is not affected.

5        **Sec. 24.**    RCW 48.62.011 and 1991 sp.s. c 30 s 1 are each amended to  
6 read as follows:

7        This chapter is intended to provide the exclusive source of local  
8 government entity authority to individually or jointly self-insure  
9 risks, jointly purchase insurance or reinsurance, and to contract for  
10 risk management, claims, and administrative services. This chapter  
11 shall be liberally construed to grant local government entities maximum  
12 flexibility in self-insuring to the extent the self-insurance programs  
13 are operated in a safe and sound manner. This chapter is intended to  
14 require prior approval for the establishment of every individual local  
15 government self-insured employee health and welfare benefit program and  
16 every joint local government self-insurance program. In addition, this  
17 chapter is intended to require every local government entity that  
18 establishes a self-insurance program not subject to prior approval to  
19 notify the state of the existence of the program and to comply with the  
20 regulatory and statutory standards governing the management and  
21 operation of the programs as provided in this chapter. This chapter is  
22 not intended to authorize or regulate self-insurance of unemployment  
23 compensation under chapter 50.44 RCW, or industrial insurance under  
24 (~~chapter 51.14~~) Title 51 RCW.

25        NEW SECTION.    **Sec. 25.**    Sections 1 through 23 of this act shall  
26 constitute a new chapter in Title 51 RCW.

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