
HOUSE BILL 2843

State of Washington 54th Legislature 1996 Regular Session

By Representatives McMorris, Romero and Thompson

Read first time 01/23/96. Referred to Committee on Commerce & Labor.

1 AN ACT Relating to the payment of fees and medical charges for
2 industrial insurance claims; and amending RCW 51.36.080.

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

4 **Sec. 1.** RCW 51.36.080 and 1993 c 159 s 2 are each amended to read
5 as follows:

6 (1) All fees and medical charges under this title shall conform to
7 the fee schedule established by the director and shall be paid within
8 sixty days of receipt by the department of a proper billing in the form
9 prescribed by department rule or sixty days after the claim is allowed
10 by final order or judgment, if an otherwise proper billing is received
11 by the department prior to final adjudication of claim allowance. The
12 department shall pay interest at the rate of one percent per month, but
13 at least one dollar per month, (~~whenever the payment period exceeds~~
14 ~~the applicable sixty-day period on all proper fees and medical~~
15 ~~charges)) from the date the department receives the claim.~~

16 Beginning in fiscal year 1987, interest payments under this
17 subsection may be paid only from funds appropriated to the department
18 for administrative purposes. A record of payments made under this
19 subsection shall be submitted twice yearly to the commerce and labor

1 committees of the senate and the house of representatives and to the
2 ways and means committees of the senate and the house of
3 representatives.

4 Nothing in this section may be construed to require the payment of
5 interest on any billing, fee, or charge if the industrial insurance
6 claim on which the billing, fee, or charge is predicated is ultimately
7 rejected or the billing, fee, or charge is otherwise not allowable.

8 In establishing fees for medical and other health care services,
9 the director shall consider the director's duty to purchase health care
10 in a prudent, cost-effective manner without unduly restricting access
11 to necessary care by persons entitled to the care. With respect to
12 workers admitted as hospital inpatients on or after July 1, 1987, the
13 director shall pay for inpatient hospital services on the basis of
14 diagnosis-related groups, contracting for services, or other prudent,
15 cost-effective payment method, which the director shall establish by
16 rules adopted in accordance with chapter 34.05 RCW.

17 (2) The director may establish procedures for selectively or
18 randomly auditing the accuracy of fees and medical billings submitted
19 to the department under this title.

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