
SENATE BILL 6516

State of Washington 57th Legislature

2002 Regular Session

By Senators Regala, Fairley, Gardner, Prentice and Franklin

Read first time 01/21/2002. Referred to Committee on Labor, Commerce & Financial Institutions.

1 AN ACT Relating to damages for a self-insurer delaying or refusing
2 to pay benefits; and amending RCW 51.48.017.

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

4 **Sec. 1.** RCW 51.48.017 and 1985 c 347 s 3 are each amended to read
5 as follows:

6 (1) If a self-insurer unreasonably delays or refuses to pay
7 benefits as they become due there shall be paid by the self-insurer
8 upon order of the director an additional amount equal to five hundred
9 dollars or twenty-five percent of the amount then due, whichever is
10 greater, which shall accrue for the benefit of the claimant and shall
11 be paid to him or her with the benefits which may be assessed under
12 this title.

13 (2) If a self-insurer's unreasonable delay or refusal to pay
14 benefits has resulted in damages suffered by the claimant, there must
15 be paid by the self-insurer to the claimant upon order of the director
16 a damage award equal to the amount of damages suffered by the claimant,
17 but not exceeding ten thousand dollars.

18 (3) The director shall issue an order determining whether there was
19 an unreasonable delay or refusal to pay benefits, or whether damages

1 had been suffered and the amount of the damages, within thirty days
2 upon the request of the claimant. Such an order shall conform to the
3 requirements of RCW 51.52.050.

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