
HOUSE BILL 2025

State of Washington

66th Legislature

2019 Regular Session

By Representatives Corry, Hoff, Orcutt, Klippert, Vick, Gildon, Dent, Griffey, McCaslin, Graham, Eslick, Chambers, Smith, Jenkin, Van Werven, and Goehner

Read first time 02/13/19. Referred to Committee on Labor & Workplace Standards.

1 AN ACT Relating to creating a task force to improve employers'
2 industrial insurance options through choice and competition; creating
3 new sections; and providing an expiration date.

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

5 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** The legislature finds that most states use
6 competition to maximize efficiency in their workers' compensation
7 programs. Private sector competition in providing workers'
8 compensation insurance has been effective in reducing premium costs,
9 maximizing program efficiency, and creating innovative safety
10 programs to protect all workers. Therefore, the legislature intends
11 to create a task force to explore allowing Washington state employers
12 to purchase industrial insurance offered by private industrial
13 insurance providers.

14 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** (1) The joint legislative task force on
15 industrial insurance choice and competition is established. The task
16 force consists of the following sixteen voting members:

17 (a) The chair and ranking minority member of the senate labor and
18 commerce committee;

19 (b) The chair and ranking minority member of the house labor and
20 workplace standards committee;

1 (c) One member from each major caucus of the house of
2 representatives, appointed by the speaker of the house of
3 representatives;

4 (d) One member from each major caucus of the senate, appointed by
5 the president of the senate; and

6 (e) The following members, appointed jointly by the president of
7 the senate and the speaker of the house of representatives:

8 (i) Five members representing business, selected from nominations
9 submitted by statewide business organizations. At least one of the
10 members must represent small business and at least one of the members
11 must be a self-insured employer under Title 51 RCW;

12 (ii) Two members representing insurers, selected from nominations
13 submitted by statewide insurance organizations; and

14 (iii) One member representing labor, selected from nominations
15 submitted by statewide labor organizations.

16 (2) The task force shall review the impacts to employers and
17 employees of allowing employers the additional option of private
18 industrial insurance. The review shall include employers who are
19 self-insured and employers who purchase through the state industrial
20 insurance program.

21 (3) (a) The task force shall use legislative facilities and staff
22 from senate committee services and the office of program research and
23 may hire additional staff with specific technical expertise if such
24 expertise is necessary and funds are available for that purpose.

25 (b) The task force, when appropriate, may consult with
26 individuals from the public and private sector or ask such persons to
27 establish an advisory committee. Members of such an advisory
28 committee are not entitled to expense reimbursement.

29 (c) The department of labor and industries and the office of the
30 insurance commissioner shall cooperate with the task force and each
31 provide a nonvoting liaison member to the task force.

32 (4) The chairs of the house labor and workplace standards
33 committee and the senate labor and commerce committee shall convene
34 and chair the first meeting of the task force, at which time the
35 members shall select two cochairs from its membership.

36 (5) Legislative members of the task force are reimbursed for
37 travel expenses in accordance with RCW 44.04.120. Nonlegislative
38 members are not entitled to be reimbursed for travel expenses if they
39 are elected officials or are participating on behalf of an employer,

1 governmental entity, or other organization. Any reimbursement for
2 other nonlegislative members is subject to chapter 43.03 RCW.

3 (6) The expenses of the task force must be paid jointly by the
4 senate and the house of representatives. Task force expenditures are
5 subject to approval by the senate facilities and operations committee
6 and the house of representatives executive rules committee, or their
7 successor committees.

8 (7) The task force shall provide a report of its findings and
9 recommendations to the appropriate committees of the legislature by
10 December 1, 2020.

11 (8) This section expires June 30, 2021.

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