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ENGROSSED SUBSTITUTE HOUSE BILL 2696

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State of Washington

53rd Legislature

1994 Regular Session

By House Committee on Commerce & Labor (originally sponsored by Representatives Flemming, Heavey, Backlund, Veloria, Thibaudeau, Campbell, Valle, Wineberry, Holm, Roland, Johanson, Pruitt, J. Kohl, Jones, L. Johnson, King, Karahalios, Conway and Springer)

Read first time 02/02/94.

1 AN ACT Relating to chemically related illness; adding new sections  
2 to chapter 51.32 RCW; adding a new section to chapter 51.04 RCW; and  
3 creating a new section.

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

5 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** A new section is added to chapter 51.32 RCW  
6 to read as follows:

7 (1) By July 1, 1994, the department shall establish interim  
8 criteria and procedures for management of claims involving chemically  
9 related illness to ensure consistency and fairness in the adjudication  
10 of these claims. The criteria and procedures shall apply to employees  
11 covered by the state fund and employees of self-insured employers. The  
12 department shall adopt final criteria and procedures by December 31,  
13 1994, and report the criteria and procedures as required under section  
14 5 of this act.

15 (2) The special procedures developed by the department shall  
16 include procedures to determine which claims involving chemically  
17 related illness require expert management. The department shall assign  
18 claims managers with special training or expertise to manage these  
19 claims.

1        NEW SECTION.    **Sec. 2.**    A new section is added to chapter 51.04 RCW  
2 to read as follows:

3        (1) The department of labor and industries and the department of  
4 health shall be the colead agencies for an advisory committee that  
5 shall consult with and advise the participating agencies on issues  
6 relating to chemically related illness. The committee shall include  
7 three members representing persons with chemically related illnesses,  
8 and one representative of each of the following: The department of  
9 labor and industries, the department of health, the state board of  
10 health, the state health care authority, the department of social and  
11 health services, the office of the insurance commissioner, the  
12 department of ecology, the department of agriculture, the employment  
13 security department, each caucus of the senate and house of  
14 representatives, the governor's office, physicians licensed to practice  
15 medicine, osteopathic physicians and surgeons, self-insured employers,  
16 state fund employers, workers of self-insured employers, and workers of  
17 state fund employers. The committee should review and make  
18 recommendations regarding the criteria and procedures developed by the  
19 department under section 1 of this act, the responsibilities of the  
20 several agencies for providing services to persons with chemically  
21 related illness, the coordination between chemically related  
22 occupational disease and other chemically related illness public health  
23 issues, and any other issues related to providing services to persons  
24 with chemically related illnesses that the committee may choose to  
25 review.

26        (2) This section shall expire June 30, 1995.

27        NEW SECTION.    **Sec. 3.**    A new section is added to chapter 51.32 RCW  
28 to read as follows:

29        The department shall work with the department of health to  
30 establish one or more centers for research and clinical assessment of  
31 chemically related illness.

32        NEW SECTION.    **Sec. 4.**    A new section is added to chapter 51.32 RCW  
33 to read as follows:

34        (1) The department shall conduct research on chemically related  
35 illnesses, which may include contracting with an appropriate entity or  
36 entities. The workers' compensation advisory committee and a  
37 scientific advisory committee, established to provide scientific

1 oversight of research projects, shall review proposals for projects  
2 funded under this section. If possible, the department shall include  
3 a research project that encourages regional cooperation in addressing  
4 chemically related illness issues.

5 (2) Expenditures for research projects shall be within legislative  
6 appropriations from the medical aid fund, with self-insured employers  
7 and the state fund each paying a pro rata share, based on the number of  
8 worker hours, of the authorized expenditures.

9 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 5.** In consultation with the workers'  
10 compensation advisory committee, the department of labor and industries  
11 and the department of health shall jointly make an interim report to  
12 the governor and the appropriate committees of the legislature by  
13 December 31, 1994, and a final report by June 30, 1995, on:

14 (1) The status of the department of labor and industries' final  
15 criteria and procedures for management of claims involving chemically  
16 related illness;

17 (2) The status of research projects authorized under section 4 of  
18 this act;

19 (3) A plan by the department of health for including accurate  
20 occupational information in all relevant current and developing  
21 automated health data bases;

22 (4) A state board of health plan to make occupational diseases  
23 reportable conditions;

24 (5) Other initiatives related to chemically related illness; and

25 (6) Any recommendations for legislation.

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