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HOUSE BILL 1898

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State of Washington

54th Legislature

1995 Regular Session

By Representatives Hargrove, Cairnes, L. Thomas, Mulliken, Hymes, Thompson, Goldsmith, D. Schmidt, Crouse, Casada, Honeyford, Lambert, Benton, Koster, Stevens, Silver, McMahan, Radcliff, Blanton, Sherstad, Boldt, Johnson, Carrell, Pelesky, Elliot, Huff, McMorris, Cooke, Fuhrman, Chandler, B. Thomas and Backlund

Read first time 02/14/95. Referred to Committee on Commerce & Labor.

1 AN ACT Relating to allowing employers to purchase industrial  
2 insurance from private industry insurance carriers; adding a new  
3 section to chapter 51.04 RCW; and creating new sections.

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

5 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** The purposes of this act are to:

6 (1) Provide all employers in this state with a choice of insurance  
7 carriers from whom industrial insurance may be purchased;

8 (2) Provide employers and their employees the benefits of a  
9 competitive industrial insurance system;

10 (3) Provide workers the benefits of safety systems developed by  
11 private enterprise, as well as those provided by government;

12 (4) Provide private industry in this state the opportunity to  
13 engage in industrial insurance business, with government regulation;

14 (5) Eliminate a government monopoly with respect to choices for  
15 small employers; and

16 (6) Increase the operating skills of this state's government run  
17 industrial insurance program by introducing competition into the  
18 business of workers' compensation insurance.

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

3        Effective January 1, 1997, employers subject to Title 51 RCW may  
4 purchase industrial insurance coverage from any insurer holding a  
5 certificate of authority under Title 48 RCW and certified by the  
6 department of labor and industries to provide industrial insurance in  
7 this state.

8        NEW SECTION.    **Sec. 3.**        (1) An implementing task force shall  
9 develop proposed legislation to implement section 2 of this act and  
10 report its recommendations to the legislature by January 1, 1996.

11        (2) The task force shall consist of the following:

12        (a) Two members of the senate, one from each major caucus to be  
13 appointed by the president of the senate;

14        (b) Two members of the house of representatives, one from each  
15 major caucus to be appointed by the speaker of the house of  
16 representatives;

17        (c) A representative of employers, a representative of workers, a  
18 representative of the insurance industry, and a representative of the  
19 Washington state medical association, each of whom shall be chosen by  
20 a majority vote of the task force members appointed in (a) and (b) of  
21 this subsection.

22        (3) Each task force member shall have one vote.

23        (4) The task force may add up to three members ex officio, who  
24 shall have the right to speak and make motions, but shall have no vote.

25        (5) The task force may use legislative staff and facilities and may  
26 employ or contract with additional staff as necessary to carry out its  
27 mission. All expenses of the task force, including travel, shall be  
28 paid jointly by the senate and the house of representatives.

29        (6) The task force members shall receive no compensation.  
30 Legislative members shall be reimbursed for their travel expenses as  
31 provided in RCW 44.04.120. Other members of the task force shall be  
32 reimbursed for travel expenses as provided in RCW 43.03.050 and  
33 43.03.060.

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