

INITIATIVE 841

To the People

Chapter 1, Laws of 2004

ERGONOMICS REGULATIONS

EFFECTIVE DATE: 12/4/03

Approved by the
People of the State of Washington
In the General Election on
November 4, 2003

ORIGINALLY FILED

January 29, 2003

**Secretary of State
State of Washington**

1 AN ACT Relating to repealing state ergonomics regulations unless a
2 uniform federal standard is required; adding new sections to chapter
3 49.17 RCW; and creating a new section.

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

5 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** A new section is added to chapter 49.17 RCW
6 to read as follows:

7 Washington must aid businesses in creating new jobs. Governor
8 Locke's competitiveness council has identified repealing the state
9 ergonomics regulations as a top priority for improving the business
10 climate and creating jobs in Washington state. A broad coalition of
11 democrats and republicans have introduced bills repeatedly to bring
12 legislative oversight to this issue. This measure will repeal an
13 expensive, unproven rule. This measure will aid in creating jobs and
14 employing the people of Washington.

15 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** A new section is added to chapter 49.17 RCW
16 to read as follows:

17 For the purposes of this section, "state ergonomics regulations"
18 are defined as the rules addressing musculoskeletal disorders, adopted

1 on May 26, 2000, by the director of the department of labor and
2 industries, and codified as WAC 296-62-05101 through 296-62-05176. The
3 state ergonomics regulations, filed on May 26, 2000, by the director
4 and codified as WAC 296-62-05101 through 296-62-05176 are repealed.
5 The director shall not have the authority to adopt any new or amended
6 rules dealing with musculoskeletal disorders, or that deal with the
7 same or similar activities as these rules being repealed, until and to
8 the extent required by congress or the federal occupational safety and
9 health administration.

10 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 3.** The provisions of this act are to be
11 liberally construed to effectuate the intent, policies, and purposes of
12 this act.

13 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 4.** If any provision of this act or its
14 application to any person or circumstance is held invalid, the
15 remainder of the act or the application of the provision to other
16 persons or circumstances is not affected.

Originally filed in Office of Secretary of State January 29, 2003.
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Election on November 4, 2003.