

FINAL BILL REPORT

SB 6264

C 154 L 06

Synopsis as Enacted

Brief Description: Allowing an injured worker to change total permanent disability pension options under certain circumstances.

Sponsors: Senators Kohl-Welles, Parlette, Honeyford, Keiser, Prentice, Kline, McAuliffe and Roach; by request of Department of Labor & Industries.

Senate Committee on Labor, Commerce, Research & Development
House Committee on Commerce & Labor

Background: Injured workers who are entitled to a workers' compensation total permanent disability pension can choose from three benefit options:

- Option 1 allows a worker to collect the full amount of pension, with no benefits going to the surviving spouse or family members if the worker dies from causes that are unrelated to his or her industrial injury or occupational disease;
- Option 2 allows a worker to receive an actuarially reduced benefit which upon death is continued throughout the life of and paid to the surviving spouse, child, or other beneficiary; and
- Option 3 allows a worker to receive an actuarially reduced benefit, and upon death, one-half of the reduced benefit is to be continued throughout the life of and paid to the surviving spouse, child, or other beneficiary.

Currently, workers who choose options 2 or 3 do not have the ability to restore their full allowable benefit in the event their designated beneficiary dies or they are divorced from that survivor.

Summary: Workers' compensation total permanent disability pensioners will receive their full monthly benefit if their designated beneficiary dies, or in the case of a designated spouse, they become divorced.

Votes on Final Passage:

Senate	48	0
House	98	0

Effective: June 7, 2006