
SUBSTITUTE SENATE BILL 6343

State of Washington

65th Legislature

2018 Regular Session

By Senate Labor & Commerce (originally sponsored by Senators Brown, Keiser, Hasegawa, Palumbo, and Saldaña)

READ FIRST TIME 01/25/18.

1 AN ACT Relating to establishing the healthy energy workers task
2 force; and adding a new section to chapter 70.98 RCW.

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

4 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** A new section is added to chapter 70.98
5 RCW to read as follows:

6 (1) Subject to the availability of amounts appropriated for this
7 specific purpose, the healthy energy workers task force is
8 established. The purpose of the healthy energy workers task force is
9 to review the information generated through the presumption of
10 occupational disease for department of energy Hanford site workers
11 and to develop recommendations for successfully diagnosing and
12 treating diseases or other health problems experienced by workers,
13 including contractors and subcontractors, who have performed work for
14 the United States at the Hanford site.

15 (2) The University of Washington, through the center of
16 excellence for chemically related illness at Harborview medical
17 center, and the department of labor and industries, shall provide
18 administrative support to the healthy energy workers task force,
19 including making arrangements for the inaugural meeting of the task
20 force and subsequent meetings of the task force.

1 (3) The healthy energy workers task force is composed of the
2 following members, who must be appointed by the governor, subject to
3 confirmation by the senate in accordance with RCW 43.06.092:

4 (a) An individual representing the United States department of
5 energy Richland operations office;

6 (b) An individual representing plumbers and steamfitters local
7 union 598;

8 (c) The director of the department of labor and industries, or
9 the director's designee;

10 (d) The secretary of the Washington state department of health,
11 or the secretary's designee;

12 (e) An individual representing an organization that contracts to
13 perform work for the United States at the Hanford site;

14 (f) An individual representing a labor union in Washington other
15 than the member appointed under (b) of this subsection; and

16 (g) An individual representing the Harborview medical center.

17 (4) Members are appointed for a term of four years and may be
18 reappointed.

19 (5) In addition to the members appointed to the healthy energy
20 workers task force under subsection (3) of this section, medical
21 professionals employed by the University of Washington or Harborview
22 medical center may be invited by the director of the department of
23 labor and industries, in consultation with the University of
24 Washington or Harborview medical center, to participate in an
25 advisory capacity in meetings of the healthy energy workers task
26 force. Individuals participating in an advisory capacity under this
27 subsection are not members of the task force and are not subject to
28 the appointment process established in this section. There is no
29 limit to the number of individuals who may participate in healthy
30 energy workers task force meetings in an advisory capacity under this
31 subsection.

32 (6) The healthy energy workers task force shall hold its
33 inaugural meeting by October 1, 2018. The task force may hold
34 subsequent meetings at its discretion, but must meet at least two
35 times per year.

36 (7) The healthy energy workers task force shall focus on the
37 following subjects:

38 (a) An analysis of data as it pertains to the participation and
39 effectiveness of any presumption of occupational disease policy for
40 department of energy workers at the Hanford site;

1 (b) Research and development of protocols for diagnosing diseases
2 or other health problems that may be the result of exposure to
3 hazardous substances or other dangerous conditions at the Hanford
4 site;

5 (c) Research and development of patient monitoring or
6 surveillance strategies that will result in the collection of data
7 regarding long-term outcomes for workers who have been treated for
8 diseases or other health problems that may be linked to working at
9 the Hanford site;

10 (d) Surveying data and information from other states and
11 countries that may be helpful to developing strategies for diagnosing
12 and treating diseases or other health problems that may be linked to
13 working at the Hanford site; and

14 (e) Discussing and making recommendations regarding public health
15 programs that may be developed at the state level to benefit workers
16 who have worked, or are working, at the Hanford site.

17 (8) The healthy energy workers task force shall provide a report
18 to the legislature by December 1st each year beginning in 2019
19 documenting the activities of the task force and reporting on the
20 subjects listed in subsection (7) of this section. The department of
21 labor and industries may provide staff support to the task force for
22 the purpose of authoring the report and transmitting it to the
23 legislature. Any member of the task force may provide a minority
24 report as an appendix to the report submitted to the legislature
25 under this section.

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