

**SB 5474 - DIGEST**

Requires a self-insurer, if he or she has determined to allow an industrial insurance claim, to issue an order allowing the claim to the injured worker, attending medical provider, and the department of labor and industries, for a claim for which the worker may be entitled to benefits other than medical treatment only.

Authorizes a self-insured employer, in the event the department has made an order communicating the closure of a claim of the employer, to serve the department order provided the employer does so using a secure, verifiable nonelectronic means of delivery and includes the department prescribed notice explaining the contents of the order and any protest or appeal rights.

Requires the director of the department of labor and industries to appoint a collaborative work group.

Requires the work group to evaluate issues on whether the current penalties for self-insurers and third-party administrators are sufficient to support: (1) The mandate to provide relief for workers injured in their work, their families, and dependents; and

(2) The legislature's finding that the workers' compensation system should be designed to focus on achieving the best outcomes for injured workers.

Provides a December 31, 2019, expiration date for the work group.