
**Labor & Workplace Standards
Committee**

HB 1837

Brief Description: Restoring the state's ability to address work-related musculoskeletal injuries.

Sponsors: Representatives Bronoske, Ortiz-Self, Berry and Pollet.

Brief Summary of Bill

- Repeals the restriction on the regulation of work-related musculoskeletal disorders and ergonomics.

Hearing Date: 1/18/22

Staff: Lily Smith (786-7175).

Background:

In 2000, the Department of Labor and Industries (L&I) adopted specific workplace ergonomics regulations requiring employers to reduce worker exposure to hazards that cause or contribute to work-related musculoskeletal disorders.

Initiative 841, passed by the voters in 2003, repealed the existing ergonomics regulations, and prohibited L&I from adopting similar regulations or otherwise regulating working practices to prevent musculoskeletal disorders.

The L&I retains general authority to enforce against ergonomic-related workplace hazards under the general duty clause of the Washington Industrial Safety and Health Act (WISHA).

Summary of Bill:

This analysis was prepared by non-partisan legislative staff for the use of legislative members in their deliberations. This analysis is not part of the legislation nor does it constitute a statement of legislative intent.

The restrictions on the specific regulation of work-related musculoskeletal disorders and ergonomics under WISHA are repealed.

Appropriation: None.

Fiscal Note: Not requested.

Effective Date: The bill takes effect 90 days after adjournment of the session in which the bill is passed.