

# HOUSE BILL REPORT

## HB 2585

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*As Reported By House Committee on:  
Commerce & Labor*

**Title:** An act relating to the industrial insurance labor-management cooperation program.

**Brief Description:** Canceling the expiration date for the industrial insurance labor-management cooperation program.

**Sponsor(s):** Representatives J. Kohl, Heavey, Fuhrman, Jones, G. Cole and Basich; by request of Department of Labor & Industries.

**Brief History:**

Reported by House Committee on:  
Commerce & Labor, February 4, 1992, DPS.

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**HOUSE COMMITTEE ON  
COMMERCE & LABOR**

**Majority Report:** *The substitute bill be substituted therefor and the substitute bill do pass.* Signed by 11 members: Representatives Heavey, Chair; G. Cole, Vice Chair; Fuhrman, Ranking Minority Member; Lisk, Assistant Ranking Minority Member; Franklin; Jones; R. King; O'Brien; Prentice; Vance; and Wilson.

**Staff:** Chris Cordes (786-7117).

**Background:** In 1991, the Legislature authorized the Department of Labor and Industries to promote and support labor-management cooperation committees to address issues in the industrial insurance system. During its first year, the program assisted the formation of four labor-management committees, developed materials to guide the committees, adopted department rules for the program, and began the publication of a newsletter.

The program terminates June 30, 1992.

**Summary of Substitute Bill:** The Industrial Insurance Labor-management Program is codified and the June 30, 1992 expiration date is repealed.

**Substitute Bill Compared to Original Bill:** The substitute codifies the sections establishing the labor-management

program, deletes duplicative definitions, and makes other technical changes.

**Fiscal Note:** Not requested.

**Effective Date of Substitute Bill:** Ninety days after adjournment of session in which bill is passed.

**Testimony For:** The labor-management program has been in place a relatively short time, but it has been enthusiastically supported by both labor and management. There have been inquiries from other states about the program. Several labor-management committees have been formed and they are having a positive impact. The committees offer greater opportunities to support injured workers and to establish lines of trust and communication.

**Testimony Against:** None.

**Witnesses:** (In favor): George Lewis, Department of Labor and Industries; Sally Fisher, Clark County Disposal; and Jeff Johnson, Washington State Labor Council.