

---

HOUSE BILL 2128

---

State of Washington                      52nd Legislature                      1991 Regular Session

By Representatives Cole, Prentice, Braddock, Orr and Franklin.

Read first time February 27, 1991. Referred to Committee on Commerce & Labor.

1            AN ACT Relating to health and safety in the office environment; and  
2 amending RCW 49.17.050.

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

4            **Sec. 1.** RCW 49.17.050 and 1973 c 80 s 5 are each amended to read  
5 as follows:

6            In the adoption of rules (~~and regulations~~) under the authority of  
7 this chapter, the director shall:

8            (1) Provide for the preparation, adoption, amendment, or repeal of  
9 rules (~~and regulations~~) of safety and health standards governing the  
10 conditions of employment of general and special application in all work  
11 places;

12            (2) Provide for the adoption of occupational health and safety  
13 standards which are at least as effective as those adopted or  
14 recognized by the United States secretary of labor under the authority

1 of the Occupational Safety and Health Act of 1970 (Public Law 91-596;  
2 84 Stat. 1590);

3 (3) Provide a method of encouraging employers and employees in  
4 their efforts to reduce the number of safety and health hazards at  
5 their work places and to stimulate employers and employees to institute  
6 new and to perfect existing programs for providing safe and healthful  
7 working conditions;

8 (4) Provide for the promulgation of health and safety standards and  
9 the control of conditions in all work places concerning gases, vapors,  
10 dust, or other airborne particles, toxic materials, or harmful physical  
11 agents which shall set a standard which most adequately assures, to the  
12 extent feasible, on the basis of the best available evidence, that no  
13 employee will suffer material impairment of health or functional  
14 capacity even if such employee has regular exposure to the hazard dealt  
15 with by such standard for the period of his or her working life; any  
16 such standards shall require where appropriate the use of protective  
17 devices or equipment and for monitoring or measuring any such gases,  
18 vapors, dust, or other airborne particles, toxic materials, or harmful  
19 physical agents;

20 (5) Provide for appropriate reporting procedures by employers with  
21 respect to such information relating to conditions of employment which  
22 will assist in achieving the objectives of this chapter;

23 (6) Provide for the frequency, method, and manner of the making of  
24 inspections of work places without advance notice; ((and,))

25 (7) Provide for the publication and dissemination to employers,  
26 employees, and labor organizations and the posting where appropriate by  
27 employers of informational, education, or training materials calculated  
28 to aid and assist in achieving the objectives of this chapter;

29 (8) Provide for the establishment of new and the perfection and  
30 expansion of existing programs for occupational safety and health

1 education for employers and employees, and, in addition institute  
2 methods and procedures for the establishment of a program for voluntary  
3 compliance solely through the use of advice and consultation with  
4 employers and employees with recommendations including recommendations  
5 of methods to abate violations relating to the requirements of this  
6 chapter and all applicable safety and health standards and rules (~~and~~  
7 ~~regulations~~) promulgated pursuant to the authority of this chapter;

8 (9) Provide for the adoption of safety and health standards  
9 requiring the use of safeguards in trenches and excavations and around  
10 openings of hoistways, hatchways, elevators, stairways, and similar  
11 openings;

12 (10) Provide for the promulgation of health and safety standards  
13 requiring the use of safeguards for all vats, pans, trimmers, cut off,  
14 gang edger, and other saws, planers, presses, formers, cogs, gearing,  
15 belting, shafting, coupling, set screws, live rollers, conveyors,  
16 mangles in laundries, and machinery of similar description, which can  
17 be effectively guarded with due regard to the ordinary use of such  
18 machinery and appliances and the danger to employees therefrom, and  
19 with which the employees of any such work place may come in contact  
20 while in the performance of their duties and prescribe methods,  
21 practices, or processes to be followed by employers which will enhance  
22 the health and safety of employees in the performance of their duties  
23 when in proximity to machinery or appliances mentioned in this  
24 subsection;

25 (11) Provide for the adoption of health and safety standards  
26 addressing employment in the office environment, including but not  
27 limited to employee training, organization of job duties, methods, or  
28 practices, and the use of ergonomic principles in office design.