
SENATE BILL 5374

State of Washington 52nd Legislature 1991 Regular Session

By Senators Anderson, Newhouse, Vognild, West, Conner and Thorsness.

Read first time January 30, 1991. Referred to Committee on Commerce & Labor.

1 AN ACT Relating to the industrial insurance labor-management
2 cooperation program; creating new sections; making an appropriation;
3 and providing an expiration date.

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

5 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** The legislature finds that:

6 (1) The quality and stability of the relationship between labor and
7 management in this state's businesses contributes significantly to the
8 health of the state's economy and the capacity of the economy to
9 provide high-quality employment for the state's citizens;

10 (2) Cooperation between labor and management can lead to
11 innovation, high productivity, and high product quality and is
12 essential if the state is to be competitive in the fast-changing,
13 international, and technology-oriented economy;

14 (3) Through cooperation, labor and management can better address
15 common problems that hinder individual and business welfare; and

1 (4) The effective, efficient operation of the state's industrial
2 insurance system is primarily a matter of concern to labor and
3 management, and a major issue around which cooperation should be
4 fostered.

5 Therefore, to strengthen the state's economy, to promote a better
6 operating environment for the state's workers and businesses, and to
7 inform persons and provide an ongoing forum for discussion regarding
8 the state's industrial insurance system, the legislature establishes
9 the industrial insurance labor-management cooperation program.

10 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** Unless the context clearly requires
11 otherwise, the definitions in this section apply throughout this act.

12 (1) "Department" means the department of labor and industries.

13 (2) "Director" means the director of the department of labor and
14 industries.

15 (3) "Local industrial insurance labor-management committee" means
16 a formal, nonprofit organization structured for continuing service with
17 voluntary membership, intended to provide information on and address
18 issues regarding industrial insurance issues in a distinct and
19 identifiable geographic region or industry, and including equal
20 membership from labor and management.

21 (4) "Program" means the industrial insurance labor-management
22 cooperation program.

23 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 3.** (1) The industrial insurance labor-
24 management cooperation program is established within the industrial
25 insurance division of the department. The program shall promote and
26 support efforts by labor and management throughout the state to jointly
27 address issues regarding the state's industrial insurance system and

1 its operation in a local area or industry. Through this program, the
2 department shall:

3 (a) Encourage the formation of and provide assistance to local
4 industrial insurance labor-management committees;

5 (b) Serve as a clearinghouse for information on industrial
6 insurance and relevant issues to be addressed by local labor-management
7 committees;

8 (c) Provide conferences, workshops, seminars, or other educational
9 offerings to promote labor-management cooperation in addressing
10 industrial insurance issues; and

11 (d) Provide any other service determined by the director to enhance
12 efforts by labor and management to jointly address industrial insurance
13 issues.

14 (2) The director shall adopt rules to implement the program,
15 appoint a program coordinator, and report annually to the legislature
16 on the progress and status of the program.

17 (3) The program coordinator shall report quarterly to the worker's
18 compensation advisory committee on the progress and status of the
19 program.

20 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 4.** If any provision of this act or its
21 application to any person or circumstance is held invalid, the
22 remainder of the act or the application of the provision to other
23 persons or circumstances is not affected.

24 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 5.** The sum of one hundred thousand dollars,
25 or as much thereof as may be necessary, is appropriated, one-fourth
26 from the medical aid fund, one-fourth from the accident fund, and one-
27 half from the self-insurers' administrative fund, for the year ending

1 June 30, 1992, to the department to carry out the purposes of this act,
2 for which the department may employ two full-time employees.

3 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 6.** This act shall expire and the industrial
4 insurance labor-management cooperation program shall cease to exist on
5 June 30, 1992, unless extended by law for an additional period of time.