

---

**SENATE BILL 5492**

---

**State of Washington                      52nd Legislature                      1991 Regular Session**

**By** Senators Matson, Owen, West, L. Smith and Amondson.

Read first time February 4, 1991. Referred to Committee on Commerce & Labor.

1            AN ACT Relating to workers' compensation insurance; adding a new  
2 section to chapter 51.04 RCW; and creating new sections.

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

4            NEW SECTION.    **Sec. 1.**            The purpose of this act is to provide  
5 all employers in Washington state a choice of carriers from whom to  
6 purchase workers' compensation insurance; to provide employers and  
7 their employees the benefits of a competitive system; to provide  
8 workers the benefits of safety systems developed by private enterprise,  
9 as well as those provided by government; to provide private industry in  
10 Washington state the opportunity to do business with government  
11 regulation; to eliminate a government monopoly to small employers; and  
12 to increase the operating skills of Washington's government run  
13 workers' compensation industry by introducing competition into the  
14 business of workers' compensation insurance.

1        NEW SECTION.    **Sec. 2.**    A new section is added to chapter 51.04 RCW  
2 to read as follows:

3        Effective January 1, 1993, employers in this state may purchase  
4 workers' compensation insurance, and related coverage, from any insurer  
5 holding a certificate of authority pursuant to Title 48 RCW and  
6 certified by the department of labor and industries pursuant to this  
7 title.

8        NEW SECTION.    **Sec. 3.**        (1) An implementing committee shall  
9 develop legislation for implementing this act and report its  
10 recommendations to the legislature by January 1, 1992.

11        (2) The committee shall consist of the following:

12        (a) Two members of the senate, one from each major caucus to be  
13 appointed by the lieutenant governor;

14        (b) Two members of the house of representatives, one from each  
15 major caucus to be appointed by the speaker of the house of  
16 representatives.

17        (c) A representative of employers; a representative of workers; a  
18 representative of the insurance industry; a representative of the  
19 Washington state bar association; a representative of the Washington  
20 state medical association, each of whom shall be chosen by a majority  
21 vote of the legislative members.

22        (3) Each committee member shall have one vote.

23        (4) The committee may add up to three members ex officio, who shall  
24 have the right to speak and make motions, but shall have no vote.

25        (5) The committee shall hire staff and counsel to carry out its  
26 mission.

27        (6) The commission members shall receive no compensation.  
28 Legislators shall be reimbursed for their travel expenses as provided  
29 in RCW 44.04.120. Other members of the commission shall be reimbursed

1 for travel expenses as provided in RCW 43.03.050 and 43.03.060.