
HOUSE BILL 3134

State of Washington 58th Legislature 2004 Regular Session

By Representatives Schoesler, Armstrong, Ahern, Crouse, Holmquist, Ericksen, McMahan, Clements, McMorris, Condotta and Schindler

Read first time 01/28/2004. Referred to Committee on Commerce & Labor.

1 AN ACT Relating to the Washington industrial safety and health act;
2 adding a new section to chapter 49.17 RCW; and creating new sections.

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

4 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** (1) The legislature makes the following
5 findings:

6 (a) Fewer than half of the states in the United States operate job
7 safety and health programs under section eighteen of the occupational
8 safety and health act;

9 (b) Fewer than half of the employees in the Washington industrial
10 safety and health act services division at the department of labor and
11 industries actually conduct workplace safety inspections;

12 (c) Washington's workplaces are no safer than states that rely
13 exclusively on the occupational safety and health administration to
14 conduct workplace safety inspections; and

15 (d) More than thirty million dollars annually in workers'
16 compensation funds are used to pay for this unnecessary program.

17 (2) Therefore, the legislature declares that the purpose of this
18 act is to no longer administer Washington's state plan under section

1 eighteen of the occupational safety and health act until the
2 occupational safety and health act is repealed.

3 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** A new section is added to chapter 49.17 RCW
4 to read as follows:

5 The department shall cease to administer and enforce this chapter
6 on the effective date of this act and until the effective date of the
7 repeal of the federal occupational safety and health act.

8 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 3.** In the 2005 legislative session, the
9 legislature must pass a joint memorial that petitions congress for
10 amendments to the federal occupational safety and health act. The
11 amendments should extend the scope of the occupational safety and
12 health act to include public employees.

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