
SENATE BILL 6318

State of Washington 58th Legislature 2004 Regular Session

By Senators Hewitt, T. Sheldon, Honeyford, Mulliken and Rasmussen

Read first time 01/16/2004. Referred to Committee on Commerce & Trade.

1 AN ACT Relating to management of claims of insolvent self-insurers;
2 and amending RCW 51.14.077.

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

4 **Sec. 1.** RCW 51.14.077 and 1986 c 57 s 6 are each amended to read
5 as follows:

6 (1) A self-insurers' insolvency trust is established to provide for
7 the unsecured benefits paid to the injured workers of self-insured
8 employers under this title for insolvent or defaulting self-insured
9 employers and for the department's associated administrative costs,
10 including attorneys' fees. The self-insurers' insolvency trust shall
11 be funded by an insolvency assessment which shall be levied on a post-
12 insolvency basis and after the defaulting self-insured employer's
13 security deposit, assets, and reinsurance, if any, have been exhausted.
14 Insolvency assessments shall be imposed on all self-insured employers,
15 except school districts, cities, and counties. The manner of imposing
16 and collecting assessments to the insolvency fund shall be set forth in
17 rules adopted by the department to ensure that self-insured employers
18 pay into the fund in proportion to their claim costs. The department's
19 rules shall provide that self-insured employers who have surrendered

1 their certification shall be assessed for a period of not more than
2 three calendar years following the termination date of their
3 certification.

4 (2) The director shall adopt rules to carry out the purposes of
5 this section, including but not limited to:

6 (a) Governing the formation of the self-insurers' insolvency trust
7 for the purpose of this chapter;

8 (b) Governing the organization and operation of the self-insurers'
9 insolvency trust to assure compliance with the requirements of this
10 chapter;

11 (c) Requiring adequate accountability of the collection and
12 disbursement of funds in the self-insurers' insolvency trust; and

13 (d) Any other provisions necessary to carry out the requirements of
14 this chapter.

15 (3) The department shall contract with a service organization or
16 third-party administrator with a certified Washington claims
17 administrator to manage the claims of insolvent self-insured employers.
18 The director shall select the service organization or third-party
19 administrator through a competitive bidding process in which at least
20 two service organizations or third-party administrators submit bids.
21 If an insufficient number of bids is submitted, the claims shall be
22 managed by the self-insurance section of the department. The service
23 organization or third-party administrator has authority to make all
24 decisions regarding claims of an insolvent self-insured employer.

25 (4) The department shall perform an annual audit at the office of
26 the service organization or third-party administrator of the claims of
27 insolvent self-insured employers that are being managed by that service
28 organization or third-party administrator.

29 (5) The self-insurers' insolvency trust board has the right to
30 request an independent audit of the claim files of any claim of an
31 insolvent self-insured employer for which benefits are or may be
32 payable to determine whether the claims are being properly managed, to
33 make recommendations for handling of any claim, to improve the program,
34 and to ensure compliance with the requirements of this chapter.

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