

HB 1709 - DIGEST

Provides that the parties to a claim may enter into a final settlement agreement at any time once the worker has reached maximum medical improvement as provided in this act with respect to one or more claims under Title 51 RCW. All final settlement agreements must be approved by the board of industrial insurance appeals. The final settlement agreement may: (1) Bind the parties with regard to any or all aspects of a claim, including but not limited to allowance or rejection of a claim, monetary payment, vocational services, claim closure, and claim reopening under RCW 51.32.160; and

(2) Not subject any employer who is not a signatory to the agreement to any responsibility or burden under any claim.

Requires the department to develop and maintain a registry system by which it records final settlement agreements entered into between the parties. This information shall be made available to employers at appropriate times as determined by the department in rule, but an employer may not consider a prior settlement agreement when making hiring decisions or as a condition of employment.