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HOUSE BILL 2917

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State of Washington

64th Legislature

2016 Regular Session

By Representatives Gregerson, Sells, Reykdal, Hudgins, Walkinshaw, Kilduff, Ormsby, Orwall, Robinson, Ortiz-Self, Ryu, and Pollet

Read first time 01/27/16. Referred to Committee on Labor & Workplace Standards.

1 AN ACT Relating to studying the causes of workplace injuries  
2 suffered by commercial janitors; adding a new section to chapter  
3 49.17 RCW; creating a new section; and providing an expiration date.

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

5 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** Data from the department of labor and  
6 industries indicate that commercial janitors historically have had a  
7 higher rate of approved injury claims compared to other sectors. Data  
8 also show that women comprise only about one-third of the janitorial  
9 workforce, yet female janitors have about twice the rate of  
10 compensable injuries than male janitors. Sufficient information does  
11 not exist to determine the causes of the injuries and what prevention  
12 methods are available to reduce the number of injuries suffered by  
13 janitors. Therefore, for the health and safety of janitors and other  
14 employees doing comparable work in the hospitality, retail, and other  
15 similar industries, the legislature finds that it is worthwhile for  
16 the department of labor and industries to study the major risk  
17 factors of injury for commercial janitors.

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

1           (1) The department must conduct a study on commercial janitorial  
2 safety that measures the workers' safety and health risks associated  
3 with their work tasks, taking into consideration their work  
4 environment, workload, and the tools and equipment they use.

5           (2) To the greatest extent possible, the department must conduct  
6 the study using methods that will allow the data to be extrapolated  
7 to other comparable industries, such as hospitality and retail, with  
8 the goal of creating safety and injury prevention practices that  
9 benefit workers in other industries.

10          (3) The department must complete the study by December 31, 2020.  
11 Beginning December 31, 2016, and until the completion of the study,  
12 the department must provide annual reports of its progress and  
13 findings to the labor committees of the house of representatives and  
14 the senate.

15          NEW SECTION.   **Sec. 3.** This act expires December 31, 2021.

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