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SENATE BILL 5468

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State of Washington

64th Legislature

2015 Regular Session

By Senators King, Keiser, Kohl-Welles, and Conway; by request of Department of Labor & Industries

Read first time 01/22/15. Referred to Committee on Commerce & Labor.

1 AN ACT Relating to authorizing the use of nonappropriated funds  
2 on certain administrative costs and expenses of the stay-at-work and  
3 self-insured employer programs; and adding new sections to chapter  
4 51.44 RCW.

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

6 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** A new section is added to chapter 51.44  
7 RCW to read as follows:

8 (1) Moneys used for administrative expenses to assist employers  
9 with developing a stay-at-work program and other related services  
10 that respond to employer needs or employee needs, or both, in the  
11 stay-at-work program as they arise is subject to the allotment of all  
12 expenditures pursuant to chapter 43.88 RCW. However, an appropriation  
13 is not required for expenditures. Administrative expenses include,  
14 but are not limited to, the salaries and expenses of staff required  
15 to implement the services and travel, goods, and services necessary  
16 to conduct these activities. The department must use stay-at-work  
17 program premiums to pay for these services. The department must seek  
18 the advice of the workers' compensation advisory committee prior to  
19 accessing these funds.

20 (2) The director must appoint a stay-at-work advisory committee  
21 composed of six members: Three representing large and small employers

1 and three representing labor. At least one member of the committee  
2 must be a small business owner as defined by RCW 34.05.110(9)(a) or  
3 must represent a group primarily made up of small businesses.  
4 Appointed members representing employers must have experience working  
5 directly with the stay-at-work program. Statewide business and labor  
6 organizations, representing large and small employers, must provide  
7 the director with recommendations for people to serve on the  
8 committee. The department must provide staff support for this  
9 committee.

10 (3) The members must serve three-year terms. Terms of the members  
11 representing employers and labor must be staggered such that the  
12 director must designate one member from each group initially  
13 appointed whose term must expire after one year and one member from  
14 each group whose term must expire after two years. The remainder of  
15 the initial group must be appointed for three-year terms. Thereafter,  
16 members must be appointed for three-year terms.

17 (4) The members must serve without compensation, but must be  
18 entitled to travel expenses as provided in RCW 43.03.050 and  
19 43.03.060. All expenses of this committee must be paid by the  
20 department.

21 (5) This committee must review department proposals, submitted by  
22 the director, to spend nonappropriated stay-at-work program premiums  
23 for administrative expenses as defined under subsection (1) of this  
24 section, and make recommendations to the workers' compensation  
25 advisory committee for their consideration.

26 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** A new section is added to chapter 51.44  
27 RCW to read as follows:

28 Moneys used for administrative costs for one-time projects  
29 requested by self-insured employers and that will support the self-  
30 insured employer program is subject to the allotment of all  
31 expenditures pursuant to chapter 43.88 RCW. However, an appropriation  
32 is not required for expenditures. Administrative costs include, but  
33 are not limited to, the salaries and expenses of staff required to  
34 implement the one-time projects and travel, goods, and services  
35 necessary to conduct these activities. The department must use self-  
36 insured employer administrative assessments to cover the costs of

1 these services. The department must seek support from self-insured  
2 employers prior to accessing these funds.

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