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ENGROSSED SENATE BILL 5510

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State of Washington

64th Legislature

2015 Regular Session

By Senators Braun, Baumgartner, Rivers, and Angel

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

1 AN ACT Relating to simplifying and adding certainty to the  
2 calculation of workers' compensation benefits; and creating a new  
3 section.

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

5 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** The department of labor and industries  
6 shall convene, no later than August 1, 2015, a benefit accuracy  
7 working group to develop recommendations to improve the calculation  
8 of wages under the industrial insurance program. The director must  
9 appoint members to the working group as follows: Two members  
10 representing labor, two members representing employers, and at least  
11 two members representing the department of labor and industries.  
12 Members must serve without compensation, but must be entitled to  
13 travel expenses as provided in RCW 43.03.050 and 43.03.060. All  
14 expenses of this working group must be paid by the department. The  
15 working group must focus on improving the accuracy, simplicity,  
16 fairness, and consistency of calculating and providing wage  
17 replacement benefits and shall not consider overall reductions in  
18 existing worker benefit levels. The working group must report to the  
19 relevant committees of the legislature by February 1, 2016, and issue

1 a final report that includes any legislative proposals arising from  
2 its work no later than September 1, 2016.

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