

SB 6213 - S AMD 655
By Senator Braun

NOT ADOPTED 02/13/2018

1 On page 4, after line 5, insert the following:

2 "NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** A new section is added to chapter 51.32
3 RCW to read as follows:

4 (1) Subject to the availability of amounts appropriated for this
5 specific purpose, the advisory committee on first responder
6 occupational disease presumption, subsequently referred to in this
7 section as the advisory committee, is established. The purposes of
8 the advisory committee are to review scientific evidence and to make
9 recommendations to the legislature on additional diseases or
10 disorders for inclusion under RCW 51.32.185.

11 (2) The director shall appoint nine voting members to the
12 advisory committee and appoint the research director of the
13 department's safety and health assessment and research for prevention
14 program as the advisory committee chair. The advisory committee chair
15 is not a voting member of the committee.

16 (a) The nine voting members of the advisory committee must be
17 composed of:

18 (i) Two members representing occupations covered under RCW
19 51.32.185;

20 (ii) Two members representing employers with workers covered
21 under RCW 51.32.185;

22 (iii) Two epidemiologists;

23 (iv) Two preventive medicine physicians; and

24 (v) One industrial hygienist.

25 (b) Advisory committee members are appointed for a term of four
26 years and may be reappointed. Advisory committee members shall not be
27 compensated for their work on the advisory committee. As a condition
28 of appointment, voting members of the advisory committee described
29 under (a)(iii) through (v) of this subsection and the advisory
30 committee chair must have no past or current financial or personal
31 conflicts of interest related to the advisory committee activities.
32 Voting members of the advisory committee may not be current employees
33 of the department.

1 (3) Any requests to review scientific evidence and to make
2 recommendations to the legislature, on specific disorders or
3 diseases, or specific occupations for inclusion under RCW 51.32.185,
4 must be initiated by the chair or ranking member of the appropriate
5 committee or committees of the legislature by notifying the director.

6 (4) The process of developing an advisory committee
7 recommendation must include a thorough review of the scientific
8 literature on the disease and disorder, relevant exposures, and
9 strength of the association between the specific occupations and the
10 disease or disorder proposed for inclusion in RCW 51.32.185.
11 Consideration must be given to the relevance, quality, and quantity
12 of the literature and data. The advisory committee may consult
13 nationally recognized experts or subject matter experts in developing
14 their recommendations. The advisory committee must provide a
15 recommendation to the legislature within one hundred eighty days of a
16 request by the legislature.

17 (5) Each recommendation must include:

18 (a) A written description of the scientific evidence and
19 supporting information relied upon to assess the causal relationship
20 between the occupation and health condition proposed for inclusion
21 under RCW 51.32.185; and

22 (b) Estimates of the number of Washington workers at risk, the
23 prevalence of the disease or disorder, and the medical treatment and
24 disability costs should, if available. Any recommendation must be
25 made by a majority of advisory committee's voting members. Any member
26 of the advisory committee may provide a written dissent as an
27 appendix to the committee's recommendation.

28 (6) The department's safety and health assessment and research
29 for prevention program must provide organizational and scientific
30 support to the advisory committee. Scientific support must include,
31 for consideration of the advisory committee, preliminary written
32 reviews of the scientific literature on the disease and disorder,
33 relevant exposures, and strength of the association between the
34 specific occupations and the health condition or disorders proposed
35 for inclusion in RCW 51.32.185."

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1 On page 1, line 1 of the title, after "Relating to" strike the
2 remainder of the title and insert "the presumption of occupational
3 disease for purposes of workers' compensation by establishing a
4 process to add medical conditions to the presumption; amending RCW
5 51.32.185; and adding a new section to chapter 51.32 RCW."

EFFECT: Establishes the Advisory Committee on First Responder Occupational Disease Presumption to review scientific evidence and to make recommendations to the legislature on additional diseases or disorders for inclusion under the statute for occupational disease for firefighters. Describes the committee members, purposes, recommendation process, and reporting requirements.

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