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WORKERS' COMPENSATION AND EMPLOYEE MISCONDUCT
2014 GENERAL SESSION
STATE OF UTAH
Chief Sponsor: Karen Mayne
House Sponsor: Mike K. McKell
LONG TITLE
General Description:
This bill modifies the Workers' Compensation Act to address use of controlled
substances or alcohol.
Highlighted Provisions:
This bill:
 addresses reductions or prohibitions on receipt of disability compensation related to
the use of controlled substances or alcohol on the basis of the degree to which the
conduct is a contributing cause of an injury;
 addresses knowing use of a controlled substance not obtained under a prescription;
clarifies burden of proof to rebut presumption;
addresses what an employee can prove to rebut presumption;
requires split testing; and
makes technical and conforming changes.
Money Appropriated in this Bill:
None
Other Special Clauses:
None
Utah Code Sections Affected:
AMENDS:
34A-2-302, as last amended by Laws of Utah 2000, Chapter 295

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30	Section 1. Section 34A-2-302 is amended to read:
31	34A-2-302. Employee's willful misconduct Penalty.
32	(1) For purposes of this section:
33	(a) "Controlled substance" is as defined in Section 58-37-2[;].
34	(b) "Local government employee" is as defined in Section 34-41-101[;].
35	(c) "Local governmental entity" is as defined in Section 34-41-101[;].
36	(d) "State institution of higher education" is as defined in Section 34-41-101[; and].
37	(e) "Valid prescription" is a prescription, as defined in Section 58-37-2, that:
38	(i) is prescribed for a controlled substance for use by the employee for whom it was
39	prescribed; and
40	(ii) has not been altered or forged.
41	(2) An employee may not:
42	(a) remove, displace, damage, destroy, or carry away any safety device or safeguard
43	provided for use in any employment or place of employment;
44	(b) interfere in any way with the use of a safety device or safeguard described in
45	Subsection (2)(a) by any other person;
46	(c) interfere with the use of any method or process adopted for the protection of any
47	employee in the employer's employment or place of employment; or
48	(d) fail or neglect to follow and obey orders and to do every other thing reasonably
49	necessary to protect the life, health, and safety of employees.
50	(3) Except in case of injury resulting in death:
51	(a) compensation provided for by this chapter shall be reduced 15% when injury is
52	caused by the willful failure of the employee:
53	(i) to use safety devices when provided by the employer; or
54	(ii) to obey any order or reasonable rule adopted by the employer for the safety of the
55	employee; and
56	(b) except when the employer permitted, encouraged, or had actual knowledge of the
57	conduct described in Subsection [(3)(b)(i) through (iii),] <u>(4):</u>

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58	(i) disability compensation may not be awarded under this chapter or [Title 34A,]
59	Chapter 3, Utah Occupational Disease Act, to an employee when the major contributing cause
60	of the employee's injury is the employee's conduct described in Subsection (4); or
61	(ii) disability compensation to an employee under this chapter or Chapter 3, Utah
62	Occupational Disease Act, shall be reduced by 15% when the employee's conduct is a
63	contributing cause of the employee's injury but not the major contributing cause.
64	(4) The conduct described in Subsection (3)(b) is the employee's:
65	[(i)] (a) knowing use of a controlled substance that the employee did not obtain under a
66	valid prescription;
67	[(ii)] (b) intentional abuse of a controlled substance that the employee obtained under a
68	valid prescription if the employee uses the controlled substance intentionally:
69	[(A)] (i) in excess of prescribed therapeutic amounts; or
70	[(B)] (ii) in an otherwise abusive manner; or
71	[(iii)] (c) intoxication from alcohol with a blood or breath alcohol concentration of .08
72	grams or greater as shown by a chemical test.
73	[(4)] (a) For purposes of [Subsection] Subsections (3) and (4), as shown by a
74	chemical test that conforms to scientifically accepted analytical methods and procedures and
75	includes verification or confirmation of any positive test result by gas chromatography, gas
76	chromatography-mass spectroscopy, or other comparably reliable analytical method, before the
77	result of the test may be used as a basis for the presumption, it is presumed that the major
78	contributing cause of the employee's injury is the employee's conduct described in [Subsections
79	(3)(b)(i) through (iii)] Subsection (4) if at the time of the injury:
80	(i) the employee has in the employee's system:
81	(A) any amount of a controlled substance or its metabolites if the employee did not
82	obtain the controlled substance under a valid prescription; or
83	(B) a controlled substance the employee obtained under a valid prescription or the
84	metabolites of the controlled substance if the amount in the employee's system is consistent
85	with the employee using the controlled substance intentionally:

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86	(1) in excess of prescribed therapeutic amounts; or
87	(II) in an otherwise abusive manner; <u>or</u>
88	(ii) the employee has a blood or breath alcohol concentration of .08 grams or greater.
89	(b) The presumption created under Subsection [$\frac{(4)}{(5)}$ (a) may be rebutted by <u>a</u>
90	preponderance of the evidence showing that:
91	(i) the chemical test creating the presumption is inaccurate because the employer failed
92	to comply with:
93	(A) Sections 34-38-4 through 34-38-6; or
94	(B) if the employer is a local governmental entity or state institution of higher
95	education, Section 34-41-104 and Subsection 34-41-103(5);
96	(ii) the employee did not engage in the conduct described in [Subsections (3)(b)(i)
97	through (iii) Subsection (4);
98	(iii) the test results do not exclude the possibility of passive inhalation of marijuana
99	because the concentration of total urinary cannabinoids is less than 50 nanograms/ml as
100	determined by a test conducted in accordance with:
101	(A) Sections 34-38-4 through 34-38-6; or
102	(B) if the employer is a local governmental entity or state institution of higher
103	education, Section 34-41-104 and Subsection 34-41-103(5);
104	(iv) a competent medical opinion from a physician verifies that the amount of
105	controlled substances, metabolites, or alcohol in the employee's system [of the following] does
106	not support a finding that the conduct described in [Subsections (3)(b)(i) through (iii)]
107	Subsection (4) was the major contributing cause of the employee's injury[:] or a contributing
108	cause of the employee's injury; or
109	[(A) any amount of a controlled substance or its metabolites if the employee did not
110	obtain the controlled substance under a valid prescription; or]
111	[(B) a controlled substance the employee obtained under a valid prescription or the
112	metabolites of the controlled substance if the amount in the employee's system is consistent
113	with the employee using the controlled substance intentionally:

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114	[(I) in excess of prescribed therapeutic amounts; or]
115	[(II) in an otherwise abusive manner;]
116	[(C) alcohol; or]
117	[(D) a combination of Subsections (4)(b)(iii)(A) through (C); or]
118	(v) (A) the conduct described in [Subsections (3)(b)(i) through (iii)] Subsection (4) was
119	not [the major] a contributing cause of the employee's injury[:]; or
120	(B) the employee's mental and physical condition were not impaired at the time of the
121	<u>injury.</u>
122	(c) (i) Except as provided in Subsections [(4)] (5)(c)(ii) and (iii), if a chemical test that
123	creates the presumption under Subsection $[(4)]$ (5)(a) is taken at the request of the employer,
124	the employer shall comply with:
125	(A) Title 34, Chapter 38, Drug and Alcohol Testing; or
126	(B) if the employee is a local governmental employee or an employee of a state
127	institution of higher education, Title 34, Chapter 41, Local Governmental Entity Drug-Free
128	Workplace Policies.
129	(ii) Notwithstanding Section 34-38-13, the results of a test taken under Title 34,
130	Chapter 38, <u>Drug and Alcohol Testing</u> , may be disclosed to the extent necessary to establish or
131	rebut the presumption created under Subsection $[(4)]$ (5)(a).
132	(iii) Notwithstanding Section 34-41-103, the results of a test taken under Title 34,
133	Chapter 41, Local Governmental Entity Drug-Free Workplace Policies, may be disclosed to the
134	extent necessary to establish or rebut the presumption created under Subsection [(4)] (5) (a).
135	(6) (a) A test sample taken pursuant to this section shall be taken as a split sample.
136	(b) One part of the sample is to be used by the employer for testing pursuant to
137	Subsection (5)(a):
138	(i) at a testing facility selected by the employer; and
139	(ii) at the employer's or the employer's workers' compensation carrier's expense.
140	(c) The testing facility selected under Subsection (6)(b) shall hold the part of the
141	sample not used under Subsection (6)(b) until the sooner of:

142	(i) six months from the date of the original test; or
143	(ii) when the employee requests that the sample be tested.
144	(d) The employee has only six months from the date of the original test to have the
145	remaining sample tested:
146	(i) at the employee's expense; and
147	(ii) at the testing facility selected by the employee, except that the test shall meet the
148	requirements of Subsection (5)(a).
149	$[\frac{5}{2}]$ If any provision of this section, or the application of any provision of this
150	section to any person or circumstance, is held invalid, the remainder of this section shall be
151	given effect without the invalid provision or application.

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