
SENATE BILL 5744

State of Washington 63rd Legislature 2013 Regular Session

By Senators Hargrove, Hatfield, and Conway

Read first time 02/13/13. Referred to Committee on Commerce & Labor.

1 AN ACT Relating to creating an industrial insurance high risk
2 premium subsidy program; and adding a new section to chapter 51.16 RCW.

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

4 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** A new section is added to chapter 51.16 RCW
5 to read as follows:

6 (1) The department must establish a workers' compensation state
7 fund high risk premium subsidy program. The purpose of the premium
8 subsidy program is to pay a portion of the industrial insurance premium
9 due for hours worked in certain high risk classifications.

10 (2) The subsidy created under this section is available only to
11 employers who:

12 (a) Secure the payment of industrial insurance benefits through the
13 state; and

14 (b) Participate in a logger safety program that has the objective
15 of reducing the frequency and severity of injuries and is developed
16 jointly by forest product industry stakeholders, including private
17 landowners, the department of natural resources, the department of
18 labor and industries, and employers with manual logging operations.

1 (3) The subsidy created under this section will only apply to risk
2 classifications in the forest product industry that have an accident
3 fund base rate that is at least thirty-five times the average standard
4 accident fund premium rate for all risk classifications.

5 (4) Starting September 1, 2013, employers who meet the eligibility
6 criteria established in subsection (2) of this section and who report
7 hours in risk classifications identified in subsection (3) of this
8 section will receive the high risk premium subsidy. The subsidy will
9 be applied on a per hour basis, and will be calculated by multiplying
10 the average standard accident fund premium rate for all risk
11 classifications by fifteen. The total amount of the subsidy will be
12 determined by multiplying the hours of employment reported by the
13 employer in the high risk classification by the hourly rate of the
14 subsidy.

15 (5) An employer receiving a subsidy under this section will
16 continue to receive the subsidy so long as the employer continues to
17 participate in the logger safety program, as determined by guidelines
18 and standards established in the program.

19 (6) The department may adjust accident fund premium rates across
20 all industries as appropriate to mitigate impacts of the subsidy
21 program on the accident fund.

22 (7) The department may adopt rules to implement this section.

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