
SUBSTITUTE SENATE BILL 5744

State of Washington

63rd Legislature

2013 Regular Session

By Senate Commerce & Labor (originally sponsored by Senators Hargrove, Hatfield, and Conway)

READ FIRST TIME 02/22/13.

1 AN ACT Relating to reporting on the progress of the logger safety
2 initiative; adding a new section to chapter 51.04 RCW; and creating a
3 new section.

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

5 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** The legislature finds that many Washington
6 workers involved in manual logging in the logging industry suffer
7 industrial injuries with greater frequency and severity than workers in
8 other industries. The legislature further finds that the incidence and
9 severity of injury is particularly high among young workers during the
10 early periods of employment in manual logging. The legislature
11 recognizes the importance of improving safety performance in the
12 logging industry to reduce industrial injuries for workers and
13 resulting workers' compensation premium rates for employers. The
14 legislature acknowledges that industry participants, including private
15 land owners, timber industry employers, the department of natural
16 resources, and the department of labor and industries, have formed a
17 logger safety task force to develop and implement a logger safety
18 initiative. The goal of the initiative is to reduce the frequency and
19 severity of injuries in the logging industry. The task force will

1 create a program that will establish sector-wide standards for worker
2 training and supervision; establish a certification process for
3 individual company safety programs; and review the progress of logging
4 operations through mandatory performance-based audits. The legislature
5 further recognizes that as the safety culture in the logging industry
6 evolves, the frequency and severity of injuries will decrease, which
7 will drive down industrial insurance costs for logging industry
8 employers. While the industrial insurance costs will decline over time
9 as safety improves, the legislature acknowledges that an immediate
10 reduction in industrial insurance rates for the 2014 rate year for
11 participating logging employers provides an additional incentive for
12 these employers to commit to the logger safety initiative. Therefore,
13 the legislature intends to monitor development and implementation of
14 the logger safety initiative.

15 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** A new section is added to chapter 51.04 RCW
16 to read as follows:

17 By December 31, 2013, the department shall report back to the
18 appropriate committees of the legislature on the development and
19 implementation of the logger safety initiative. The report shall
20 provide a status update on implementation of the initiative and
21 participation in the safety program, including a description and
22 summary of the worker training and supervision standards and the
23 certification process for individual companies. The report shall also
24 contain a description and summary of any industrial insurance rate
25 reduction or other incentive for rate year 2014 that will be applied to
26 employers participating in the initiative. The report may provide
27 recommendations for legislative consideration to further the goals of
28 the initiative. If the logger safety initiative does not significantly
29 reduce the 2014 industrial insurance rates for manual loggers, the
30 report must provide options that would significantly reduce rates,
31 including an accident fund rate buy-down or socialization for high-risk
32 logging rate classes.

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