



Workers' Compensation

(Bills shaded in gray are considered no longer eligible for consideration this session)

Bill Number	Brief Summary	Sponsor	Position	Latest Status
5510	Wage calculation accuracy, fairness, and consistency; amended to create "Benefit Accuracy Working Group" to report back on legislative solutions	Braun	Support; top WSIA priority; testified	In House Rules Committee; must be voted out of House by 4/15
1496/5451	L&I's request bill to enhance Preferred Worker Program and make permanent changes to Voc Rehab Statute, including expansion of "Option 2"	Sells/Braun	Support	Senate version appears dead; House version awaiting vote in the Senate. Must be voted by 4/15
1395/5468	L&I's request bill to authorize L&I spending on Stay at Work program and on self-insurance projects without legislative appropriation, but with stakeholder input and approval	King	Support	House version not moving; Senate version in House Rules Committee; must be voted by 4/15

1604	Creates a working group at L&I to make recommendations on mandatory hazardous material exposure reporting for firefighters	Reykdal	Concerns; testified	In Senate Rules Committee; eligible for floor vote; must be voted by 4/15
1194	Allows for lifetime pension to surviving spouse of police or fire employee who died in the line of duty, regardless of remarriage. As amended, takes money to fund benefit from police/fire pension system, not workers' compensation.	Kirby	No position as amended; oppose if funded by WC	In Senate Rules Committee; must be voted by 4/15
5418	Creates a 3-year pilot program to allow a private medical management firm (read: Paradigm) to partner with L&I to manage catastrophic State Fund injury claims	Keiser	Support; did not testify	Appears dead; did not emerge from House Appropriations by deadline
5513	Removes the age limitation for structured settlement agreements; amended to drop age limit to 40	Braun	Support	Passed Senate; Did not receive hearing in House
5507	Provides for award of a penalty amount to an employer who prevails at the Board on an appeal of an L&I order imposing a penalty for failing to comply with Title 51	Braun	Support; would add atty's fees/costs too	Pending consideration in Senate Rules.
5420	Authorizes 3-way comp in Washington (similar to HB	Baumgartner	Philosophically	Passed to Senate

	1156)		support; testified	Rules committee
5508	Addresses Supreme Court <i>Tobin</i> decision by allowing recovery of all damages except loss of consortium in third party cases	Braun	Support; testified	Passed to Senate Rules committee
5509	Limits occupational disease coverage to those diseases or infections that meet four proximate cause criteria; modifies statute of limitation for filing occupational disease claim	Braun	Support	Passed to Senate Rules committee
1602	Includes emergency medical technicians (EMTs) in the presumption of occupational disease for firefighters	Bergquist	Oppose; testified	Passed to House Rules committee
1603	Includes public employee fire investigators in the presumption of occupational disease for firefighters	Moeller	Oppose; testified	Passed to House Rules committee
1611	Expansively defines “benefit” for purposes of the self-insurance penalty statute AND provides for claimant’s costs and attorney’s fees on appeal to the Board payable by the state fund or self-insured employer. Amended version removes benefit definition.	Reykdal	Oppose; testified	Passed to House Rules committee
1612	Imposes an additional, escalating menu of penalties on self-insured employers who fail to timely pay benefits where the order is on appeal to the Board.	Robinson	Oppose; testified	Passed to House Rules committee
1613	Reverses the <i>Slaugh</i> decision by allowing the L&I	Pollett	Concerns;	Passed to House

	director discretion to authorize medical treatment after a PPD closure.		testified	Rules committee; amended in Labor committee to narrow coverage
5586	States that the offset for social security retirement benefits does not apply to workers who applied for SSI prior to their date of injury or were receiving SSI prior to injury.	Conway	Studying	Introduced in the Senate 1/23/15; scheduled for hearing 2/16
1778	Lowers structured settlement eligibility age to 35	Condotta	Support in principle	Introduced in the House 1/28/15
5664	Governs procurement of interpreter services by state agencies, including Labor & Industries for medical and vocational appointments, and allows public employee unionization of interpreters	Jayapal	Oppose	Introduced in the Senate 1/28/15
5512	Allows retrospective ratings groups to schedule IME and voc referrals	Braun	Monitor	Introduced in Senate 1/22/15; not moving this year
5516	Creates a voluntary settlements agreement program less restrictive than existing structured settlements program	Braun	Support	Introduced in Senate 1/22/15; not moving this year
1454	Denies indemnity (but allows medical) benefits in the event a worker's injury is primarily caused by being under the influence of drugs or alcohol, with some exceptions. Requires testing; creates a presumption of	Pike	Monitoring w/ comments	Introduced in House 1/21/15

intoxication under certain circumstances.

[1156](#)

Authorizes three way workers' compensation insurance in Washington.

Pike

Philosophically
support, low
priority

Introduced in
House 1/12/15;
Unlikely to move.