Bill Tracking – Washington State Legislature 2019

Note: Bills in gray type are considered no longer eligible for consideration this legislative session.

Issue	Bill Numbers	Brief Summary	Position	Latest Status
Confidentiality of claim records	1909 5844	Proposed Amendment creates $1,000 penalty for unauthorized disclosure of mental health condition or treatment information from injured worker claim file	Negotiated limiting amendment	House version voted out of committee 2/18, Senate version 2/19. Both in Rules Committees
Wage Calculation/Benefits	5217 1492	Reworks the statute governing the method by which wages are calculated Replaces sliding scale with a 70 percent flat rate for temporary/permanent disability benefits	Oppose; unclear whether bill will move further this session past Rules Committee	House version not set for vote. Senate version voted out of committee 2/20; anticipate referral to Rules Committee

Self-insurance claims issues	5474 1682	As amended, would allow self-insurers to validly serve department-issued closing orders	Support	House version voted out of committee 2/12; Senate version voted out 2/20
Hanford occupational disease presumption	5507 1490	Amends last year's Hanford presumption law to remove pre-screening requirement if employer did not offer	Monitoring	Passed House 67-29 on 02/07, awaiting Senate floor vote
Firefighter occupational disease presumption	1913 5849	Adds additional conditions/occupations to RCW 51.32.185 as well as a scientific review panel to review future requests to add contended conditions	Supporting compromise reached with union stakeholders	Voted out of House committee 2/14, Senate version unlikely to move
Independent Contractors/Employee Classification	5513 1515	As amended in House, now creates a stakeholder working group on employee classification issues	As amended in House, now monitoring	Senate version not apparently moving, House version voted out of committee with amendments, 2/21
Firefighter Safety	5175	As amended, provides various financial incentives to State Fund agency employers of firefighters to improve workplace safety and protective equipment	Monitoring	Awaiting floor vote in Senate

State Operating Budget	1109 5153	Makes appropriations for the 2019-2021 biennium Contains funding for first phase of L&I's massive IT replacement project, of which self-insureds will be charged a portion.	Monitoring L&I appropriations	In House/Senate financial committees
Off-duty conduct protections	5226	Makes it a violation of the Washington Law Against Discrimination to take adverse action against an employee or prospective employee on the basis of off-duty lawful conduct. Many believe has to do with recreational marijuana use; could have workplace safety/drug testing implications	Opposing	Heard in Senate Law & Justice Committee 02/07, set for committee vote 02/14 but no vote held
Workers' comp for freight transporters	1961	Clarifies that freight brokers are not the employers for workers' comp purposes of common carriers with whom they contract to forward freight	Monitoring	Appears unlikely to receive consideration this session
Task force on 3-way workers' comp	2025	Sets up a task force to work toward a competitive workers' comp system	Monitoring	No chance of receiving any attention anytime soon