

2 ESHB 2696 - S AMD - 000546

3 By Senator Moore

4 ADOPTED 3/9/94

5 Strike everything after the enacting clause and insert the
6 following:

7 "NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** A new section is added to chapter 51.32 RCW
8 to read as follows:

9 (1) By July 1, 1994, the department shall establish interim
10 criteria and procedures for management of claims involving chemically
11 related illness to ensure consistency and fairness in the adjudication
12 of these claims. The criteria and procedures shall apply to employees
13 covered by the state fund and employees of self-insured employers. The
14 department shall adopt final criteria and procedures by December 31,
15 1994, and report the criteria and procedures as required under section
16 5 of this act.

17 (2) The special procedures developed by the department shall
18 include procedures to determine which claims involving chemically
19 related illness require expert management. The department shall assign
20 claims managers with special training or expertise to manage these
21 claims.

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

24 (1) The department of labor and industries and the department of
25 health shall be the colead agencies for an advisory committee that
26 shall consult with and advise the participating agencies on issues
27 relating to chemically related illness. Appointments to the committee
28 shall be made jointly by the directors of the department of health and
29 the department of labor and industries. The committee shall include at
30 least one member who represents each of the following: (a) Injured
31 workers with chemically related illness; (b) large employers who
32 qualify as self-insurers under Title 51 RCW; (c) small employers who
33 insure their workers' compensation obligation through the state fund;
34 (d) organized labor; (e) the department of health; (f) the department
35 of labor and industries; (g) physicians licensed to practice under

1 chapter 18.71 RCW; and (h) physicians licensed to practice under
2 chapter 18.57 RCW. The committee shall review and make recommendations
3 regarding the responsibilities of the several agencies for providing
4 services to persons with chemically related illness and any other
5 issues related to providing services to persons with chemically related
6 illness that the committee may choose to review.

7 (2) This section shall expire June 30, 1995.

8 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 3.** A new section is added to chapter 51.32 RCW
9 to read as follows:

10 The department shall work with the department of health to
11 establish one or more centers for research and clinical assessment of
12 chemically related illness.

13 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 4.** A new section is added to chapter 51.32 RCW
14 to read as follows:

15 (1) The department shall conduct research on chemically related
16 illnesses, which shall include contracting with recognized medical
17 research institutions. The department shall develop an implementation
18 plan for research based on sound scientific research criteria, such as
19 double blind studies, and shall include adequate provisions for peer
20 review, and submit the plan to the worker's compensation advisory
21 committee for review and approval. Following approval of the plan, all
22 specific proposals for projects under the plan shall be submitted for
23 review to a scientific advisory committee, established to provide
24 scientific oversight of research projects, and to the workers'
25 compensation advisory committee. The department shall include a
26 research project that encourages regional cooperation in addressing
27 chemically related illness.

28 (2) Expenditures for research projects shall be within legislative
29 appropriations from the medical aid fund, with self-insured employers
30 and the state fund each paying a pro rata share, based on the number of
31 worker hours, of the authorized expenditures. For the purposes of this
32 subsection only, self-insured employers may deduct from the pay of each
33 of their employees one-half of the share charged to the employer for
34 the expenditures from the medical aid fund.

35 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 5.** In consultation with the workers'
36 compensation advisory committee, the department of labor and industries

1 and the department of health shall jointly make an interim report to
2 the governor and the appropriate committees of the legislature by
3 December 31, 1994, and a final report by June 30, 1995, on:

4 (1) The status of the department of labor and industries' final
5 criteria and procedures for management of claims involving chemically
6 related illness;

7 (2) The status of research projects authorized under section 4 of
8 this act;

9 (3) A plan by the department of health for including accurate
10 occupational information in all relevant current and developing
11 automated health data bases;

12 (4) A state board of health plan to make occupational diseases
13 reportable conditions;

14 (5) Other initiatives related to chemically related illness; and

15 (6) Any recommendations for legislation."

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19 On page 1, line 1 of the title, after "illness;" strike the
20 remainder of the title and insert "adding new sections to chapter 51.32
21 RCW; adding a new section to chapter 51.04 RCW; and creating a new
22 section."

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