

REVENUE: No revenue impact

FISCAL: Minimal fiscal impact, no statement issued

Action: Do Pass
Vote: 10 - 0 - 0
Yeas: Barton, Fagan, Holvey, Kennemer, Matthews, Thatcher, Thompson, Weidner, Witt, Doherty
Nays: 0
Exc.: 0
Prepared By: Jan Nordlund, Administrator
Meeting Dates: 2/18, 2/27

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES: Authorizes Director of Department of Consumer and Business Services to order payment of temporary disability compensation for up to 21 months for certain injured workers in vocational assistance training.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Length of training programs
- Statutory limit of 21 months for time loss payment
- Inadvertent statutory deletion in 2009

EFFECT OF COMMITTEE AMENDMENT: No amendment.

BACKGROUND: A worker who is actively participating in vocational training may receive temporary disability compensation (also referred to as time loss) for up to 16 months. The insurer or self-insured employer can voluntarily extend the payments to a maximum of 21 months. Prior to 2009, the Director of the Department of Consumer and Business Services had the authority to order an extension to 21 months when an injured worker appeals the insurer's decision. Legislation enacted in 2009 (House Bill 2195) inadvertently removed this authority. House Bill 2069 returns to the Director this specific authority.

The Management-Labor Advisory Committee (MLAC) voted in January to support House Bill 2069.