

REVENUE: No revenue impact

FISCAL: Minimal fiscal impact, no statement issued

Action: Do Pass
Vote: 4 - 0 - 2
Yeas: Edwards, Monroe, Thomsen, Beyer
Nays: 0
Exc.: Girod, Starr
Prepared By: Patrick Brennan, Administrator
Meeting Dates: 4/25

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:

- Reinstates authority previously held by Director
- Problems some wage earners experience due to inability to grant 21 months' compensation
- Unanimous support of Management-Labor Advisory Committee

EFFECT OF COMMITTEE AMENDMENT: No amendment.

BACKGROUND: Workers actively participating in vocational training are eligible to receive temporary disability compensation, also known as time loss, for up to 16 months. The insurer or self-insured employer can voluntarily extend the payments to a total of up to 21 months. Prior to 2009, the Director of the Department of Consumer and Business Services (DCBS) had the authority to order an extension to 21 months in cases where an injured worker appealed the insurer's decision; this authority was inadvertently removed with the passage of House Bill 2195 (2009).

House Bill 2069 reinstates DCBS's authority to extend temporary disability compensation to up to 21 months. The measure received a vote of support in January from the Management-Labor Advisory Committee.