

DRAFT

SUMMARY

Establishes task force to study need for and processes for providing counseling services for injured workers and to make recommendations for legislation regarding counseling services for injured workers. Requires task force to submit report and its recommendations to Legislative Assembly by September 15, 2016.

Declares emergency, effective on passage.

A BILL FOR AN ACT

1
2 Relating to counseling services for injured workers; and declaring an emer-
3 gency.

4 **Be It Enacted by the People of the State of Oregon:**

5 **SECTION 1. (1) The Task Force on Counseling Services for Injured**
6 **Workers is established, consisting of 11 members appointed as follows:**

7 (a) **The President of the Senate shall appoint one member from**
8 **among members of the Senate.**

9 (b) **The Speaker of the House of Representatives shall appoint one**
10 **member from among members of the House of Representatives.**

11 (c) **The Director of the Department of Consumer and Business Ser-**
12 **vices shall appoint nine members, three of whom shall represent in-**
13 **jured workers in this state, three of whom shall represent employers**
14 **in this state, two of whom shall represent mental health professionals,**
15 **and one of whom shall represent the interests of the public.**

16 (2) **The task force shall collect and synthesize information about the**
17 **need for and processes for providing counseling services for injured**
18 **workers suffering from conditions such as situational anxiety or de-**

1 **pression that are not part of an accepted workers' compensation**
2 **claim. The task force shall also make recommendations regarding**
3 **legislation necessary for treatment of situational anxiety and de-**
4 **pression that may improve chances of an injured worker returning to**
5 **work or shorten a worker's time away from work. Any proposed leg-**
6 **islation must address the provision of counseling services in a manner**
7 **that ensures the integrity of the workers' compensation system in this**
8 **state.**

9 **(3) A majority of the members of the task force constitutes a quo-**
10 **rum for the transaction of business.**

11 **(4) Official action by the task force requires the approval of a ma-**
12 **jority of the members of the task force.**

13 **(5) The task force shall elect one of its members to serve as chair-**
14 **person.**

15 **(6) If there is a vacancy for any cause, the appointing authority**
16 **shall make an appointment to become immediately effective.**

17 **(7) The task force shall meet at times and places specified by the**
18 **call of the chairperson or of a majority of the members of the task**
19 **force.**

20 **(8) The task force may adopt rules necessary for the operation of**
21 **the task force.**

22 **(9) The task force shall submit a report and the recommendations**
23 **described in subsection (2) of this section to an interim committee of**
24 **the Legislative Assembly related to the need for counseling services**
25 **for injured workers as appropriate no later than September 15, 2016.**

26 **(10) The Department of Consumer and Business Services shall pro-**
27 **vide staff support to the task force.**

28 **(11) Members of the task force who are not members of the Legis-**
29 **lative Assembly are not entitled to compensation, but may be reim-**
30 **bursed for actual and necessary travel and other expenses incurred by**
31 **them in the performance of their official duties in the manner and**

1 amounts provided for in ORS 292.495. Claims for expenses incurred in
2 performing functions of the task force shall be paid out of funds ap-
3 propriated to the Department of Consumer and Business Services for
4 purposes of the task force.

5 (12) All agencies of state government, as defined in ORS 174.111, are
6 directed to assist the task force in the performance of its duties and,
7 to the extent permitted by laws relating to confidentiality, to furnish
8 such information and advice as the members of the task force consider
9 necessary to perform their duties.

10 SECTION 2. Section 1 of this 2015 Act is repealed on December 31,
11 2016.

12 SECTION 3. This 2015 Act being necessary for the immediate pres-
13 ervation of the public peace, health and safety, an emergency is de-
14 clared to exist, and this 2015 Act takes effect on its passage.

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