

May 11, 2015

Senator Michael Dembrow, Chair
Senate Workforce Committee
Oregon State Legislature
900 Court St. NE, Hearing Room C
Salem, OR 97301

RE: HB 2797

Dear Chair Dembrow and members of the Committee:

I am writing to you today in support of HB 2797 which clarifies the timeliness of an injured worker's first payment of temporary disability benefits.

The statute governing timeliness of an injured worker's first payment of temporary disability benefits currently provides that the first installment of time loss is due no later than 14 days after the employer has notice or knowledge of the claim. This is true even in cases where time loss begins after the employer has knowledge of the claim. Due to issues with interpretation of the employer date of knowledge of a claim, the current statute creates administrative concerns for claims processors in determining when first payments are due.

HB 2797 provides that the first payment of time loss be due no later than 14 days after the employer has both notice or knowledge of the claim and knowledge of the worker's authorized disability. It will improve overall compliance for claims processors, provide more accurate first payments resulting in fewer adjustments to subsequent payments, create more consistency in processing, and will not negatively impact workers.

As a self-insured, self-administered employer processing Workers' Compensation claims, the City of Portland Office of Risk Management urges your support for HB 2797.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Kathleen Wood". The signature is written in a cursive style.

Kate Wood
Risk Manager
City of Portland