

HB 2338 STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

House Committee On Business and Labor

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Meeting Dates: 2/6

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

Simplifies criteria and benefit levels for death benefits due to children of worker who dies from on-the-job injury, occupational disease, or while permanently and totally disabled.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

No amendment.

BACKGROUND:

When a worker dies from an on-the-job injury, occupational disease or while permanently and totaling disabled, their surviving spouse, children and other dependents are entitled to receive benefits. The benefit structure is overly complex and difficult to administer. It can result in different benefit levels for children of the same family depending on such factors as school enrollment and dependence on surviving spouse. House Bill 2338 simplifies the criteria, making the system easier to understand and administer, and producing benefit levels that are predictable for families. The measure allows a child to receive benefits until the age of 19, and the benefit level is the same regardless of the child's dependence on the worker's surviving spouse. Benefits will be paid for up to 48 months when the child is in a post-secondary education or training program through age 26.