

SUBCOMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION

SB 1519

Relating to total disability

To: Ways and Means Full Committee
From: General Government Subcommittee
Carrier: Representative Gomberg

SB 1519 changes the formula for calculating workers' compensation benefits for temporary total disability and permanent total disability claims.

The measure increases the temporary disability rate from 66.6% to 75% of the injured worker's weekly wage for the portion of wages below 75% of the state average weekly wage and to 65% for any wages above 75% of the state average weekly wage. For temporary disability, a minimum benefit floor is preserved. For permanent total disability, minimum and maximum limits tied to the state average weekly wage remain in place. These provisions apply to claims with a date of injury on or after January 1, 2027.

The fiscal impact to the state's Insurance Fund is indeterminate and dependent on the number of claimants. This increase would be funded through higher risk assessments paid by state agencies. The Department of Administrative Services recovers risk charges as part of a statewide assessment to agencies.

The General Government Subcommittee recommends SB 1519 be reported out do pass.