

# WSIPP Disability Study

## Background

In 2009, the Legislature passed ESHB 1244, which directed OSA to contract with the Washington State Institute for Public Policy (WSIPP) to study disability benefits provided to Plans 2 and 3 members of PERS, TRS, and SERS. The results of the study were published in November of 2009, and are available here: <http://www.wsipp.wa.gov/rptfiles/09-11-4101.pdf>.

## Committee Activity

The committee received an update on the study in September, and held a full work session in November. At the December meeting, the committee voted to recommend a bill to the Legislature as detailed below.

## Recommendation to 2010 Legislature

Authorize the WSIPP to continue the study for the purposes of further developing the options identified in the study, and require the Health Care Authority (HCA) to institute an improved communication program to increase awareness regarding participation in optional long-term disability insurance plans

The WSIPP must report its findings, and the HCA must report its activities, findings, and recommendations to the SPCP and the Legislature by November 17, 2010.

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**Draft Language for Bill**

Editor's Note: See HB 2919/SB6493 (2010)

AN ACT Relating to a study of disability benefit options for members of the public employees' retirement system plan 2 and plan 3, the teachers' retirement system plan 2 and plan 3, and the school employees' retirement system plan 2 and plan 3; and creating a new section.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF WASHINGTON:

NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.**

The Washington state institute for public policy shall continue the study of long-term disability benefits for public employees as authorized in section 105, chapter 564, Laws of 2009, during the 2010 interim for the limited purpose of continuing to develop the options identified in the study, which included public employee benefits board programs, other long-term disability insurance programs and public employee retirement system benefits. The institute shall report no later than November 17, 2010, new findings and any additional recommendations on the options to the select committee on pension policy, the senate committee on ways and means, and the house committee on ways on means.

1 For the options that directly im pact the public employees benefit  
2 board, the health care authority shall coordinate analysis and  
3 recommendations with its contracted disability vendor and appropriate  
4 stakeholders. The health care authority shall institute an improved  
5 communication pr ogram to increase awareness of the importance of  
6 participating in the employer's optional long-term disability  
7 insurance plan. The health care authority shall report on its  
8 activities, findings and recommendations no later than November 17,  
9 2010 to the select committee on pension policy, the senate committee  
10 on ways and means and the house committee on ways and means.

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12 NEW SECTION. Sec. 2.

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14 If specific funding for the purposes of this act, referencing this  
15 act by bill or chapter number, is not provided by June 30, 2010 in the  
16 omnibus appropriations act, this act is null and void.

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