

The supervisor of industrial insurance, the supervisor's designee, or a self-insurer, in his or her sole discretion, may authorize inoculation or other immunological treatment in cases in which a work-related activity has resulted in probable exposure of the worker to a potential infectious occupational disease. Authorization of such treatment does not bind the department or self-insurer in any adjudication of a claim by the same worker or the worker's beneficiary for an occupational disease.

NEW SECTION. Sec. 7. Sections 2 and 3 of this act shall take effect on July 1, 1986.

Passed the House February 12, 1986.

Passed the Senate March 3, 1986.

Approved by the Governor March 12, 1986.

Filed in Office of Secretary of State March 12, 1986.

CHAPTER 59

[Substitute House Bill No. 1875]

INDUSTRIAL INSURANCE—DISABILITY BENEFITS—RETIRED WORKERS

AN ACT Relating to benefits for retired workers and pensioners; amending RCW 51.32.060, 51.32.090, and 51.32.160; reenacting and amending RCW 51.32.090; adding a new section to chapter 51.32 RCW; providing an expiration date; and providing effective dates.

Be it enacted by the Legislature of the State of Washington:

Sec. 1. Section 51.32.060, chapter 23, Laws of 1961 as last amended by section 159, chapter 3, Laws of 1983 and RCW 51.32.060 are each amended to read as follows:

When the supervisor of industrial insurance shall determine that permanent total disability results from the injury, the worker shall receive monthly during the period of such disability:

(1) If married at the time of injury, sixty-five percent of his or her wages but not less than two hundred fifteen dollars per month.

(2) If married with one child at the time of injury, sixty-seven percent of his or her wages but not less than two hundred fifty-two dollars per month.

(3) If married with two children at the time of injury, sixty-nine percent of his or her wages but not less than two hundred eighty-three dollars.

(4) If married with three children at the time of injury, seventy-one percent of his or her wages but not less than three hundred six dollars per month.

(5) If married with four children at the time of injury, seventy-three percent of his or her wages but not less than three hundred twenty-nine dollars per month.

(6) If married with five or more children at the time of injury, seventy-five percent of his or her wages but not less than three hundred fifty-two dollars per month.

(7) If unmarried at the time of the injury, sixty percent of his or her wages but not less than one hundred eighty-five dollars per month.

(8) If unmarried with one child at the time of injury, sixty-two percent of his or her wages but not less than two hundred twenty-two dollars per month.

(9) If unmarried with two children at the time of injury, sixty-four percent of his or her wages but not less than two hundred fifty-three dollars per month.

(10) If unmarried with three children at the time of injury, sixty-six percent of his or her wages but not less than two hundred seventy-six dollars per month.

(11) If unmarried with four children at the time of injury, sixty-eight percent of his or her wages but not less than two hundred ninety-nine dollars per month.

(12) If unmarried with five or more children at the time of injury, seventy percent of his or her wages but not less than three hundred twenty-two dollars per month.

(13) For any period of time where both husband and wife are entitled to compensation as temporarily or totally disabled workers, only that spouse having the higher wages of the two shall be entitled to claim their child or children for compensation purposes.

(14) In case of permanent total disability, if the character of the injury is such as to render the worker so physically helpless as to require the hiring of the services of an attendant, the department shall make monthly payments to such attendant for such services as long as such requirement continues, but such payments shall not obtain or be operative while the worker is receiving care under or pursuant to the provisions of chapter 51.36 RCW and RCW 51.04.105.

(15) Should any further accident result in the permanent total disability of an injured worker, he or she shall receive the pension to which he or she would be entitled, notwithstanding the payment of a lump sum for his or her prior injury.

(16) In no event shall the monthly payments provided in this section exceed seventy-five percent of the average monthly wage in the state as computed under the provisions of RCW 51.08.018, except that this limitation shall not apply to the payments provided for in subsection (14) of this section.

(17) In the case of new or reopened claims, if the supervisor of industrial insurance determines that, at the time of filing or reopening, the worker is voluntarily retired and is no longer attached to the work force, benefits shall not be paid under this section.

Sec. 2. Section 51.32.090, chapter 23, Laws of 1961 as last amended by section 6, chapter 462, Laws of 1985 and RCW 51.32.090 are each re-enacted and amended to read as follows:

(1) When the total disability is only temporary, the schedule of payments contained in subsections (1) through (13) of RCW 51.32.060 as amended shall apply, so long as the total disability continues.

(2) Any compensation payable under this section for children not in the custody of the injured worker as of the date of injury shall be payable only to such person as actually is providing the support for such child or children pursuant to the order of a court of record providing for support of such child or children.

(3) As soon as recovery is so complete that the present earning power of the worker, at any kind of work, is restored to that existing at the time of the occurrence of the injury, the payments shall cease. If and so long as the present earning power is only partially restored, the payments shall continue in the proportion which the new earning power shall bear to the old. No compensation shall be payable unless the loss of earning power shall exceed five percent. However, during the period a worker returns to light-duty work, receives disability leave supplement payments pursuant to RCW 41.04.500 through 41.04.530, and is otherwise eligible for compensation under this section, the worker shall continue to receive such compensation at the rate provided under RCW 51.32.060 (1) through (13).

(4) Whenever an employer requests that a worker who is entitled to temporary total disability under this chapter be certified by a physician as able to perform available work other than his or her usual work, the employer shall furnish to the physician, with a copy to the worker, a statement describing the available work in terms that will enable the physician to relate the physical activities of the job to the worker's disability. The physician shall then determine whether the worker is physically able to perform the work described. If the worker is released by his or her physician for said work, and the work thereafter comes to an end before the worker's recovery is sufficient in the judgment of his or her physician to permit him or her to return to his or her usual job, or to perform other available work, the worker's temporary total disability payments shall be resumed. Should the available work described, once undertaken by the worker, impede his or her recovery to the extent that in the judgment of his or her physician he or she should not continue to work, the worker's temporary total disability payments shall be resumed when the worker ceases such work.

Once the worker returns to work under the terms of this subsection, he or she shall not be assigned by the employer to work other than the available work described without the worker's written consent, or without prior review and approval by the worker's physician.

In the event of any dispute as to the worker's ability to perform the available work offered by the employer, the department shall make the final determination.

(5) No worker shall receive compensation for or during the day on which injury was received or the three days following the same, unless his or her disability shall continue for a period of fourteen consecutive calendar days from date of injury: PROVIDED, That attempts to return to work in the first fourteen days following the injury shall not serve to break the continuity of the period of disability if the disability continues fourteen days after the injury occurs.

(6) Should a worker suffer a temporary total disability and should his or her employer at the time of the injury continue to pay him or her the wages which he or she was earning at the time of such injury, such injured worker shall not receive any payment provided in subsection (1) of this section during the period his or her employer shall so pay such wages. This limitation does not apply to disability leave supplement payments made pursuant to RCW 41.04.500 through 41.04.530.

(7) In no event shall the monthly payments provided in this section exceed seventy-five percent of the average monthly wage in the state as computed under the provisions of RCW 51.08.018.

(8) If the supervisor of industrial insurance determines that the worker is voluntarily retired and is no longer attached to the work force, benefits shall not be paid under this section.

Sec. 3. Section 51.32.090, chapter 23, Laws of 1961 as last amended by section 1, chapter 129, Laws of 1980 and RCW 51.32.090 are each amended to read as follows:

(1) When the total disability is only temporary, the schedule of payments contained in subdivisions (1) through (13) of RCW 51.32.060 as amended shall apply, so long as the total disability continues.

(2) Any compensation payable under this section for children not in the custody of the injured worker as of the date of injury shall be payable only to such person as actually is providing the support for such child or children pursuant to the order of a court of record providing for support of such child or children.

(3) As soon as recovery is so complete that the present earning power of the worker, at any kind of work, is restored to that existing at the time of the occurrence of the injury, the payments shall cease. If and so long as the present earning power is only partially restored, the payments shall continue in the proportion which the new earning power shall bear to the old. No compensation shall be payable unless the loss of earning power shall exceed five percent.

(4) Whenever an employer requests that a worker who is entitled to temporary total disability under this chapter be certified by a physician as

able to perform available work other than his or her usual work, the employer shall furnish to the physician, with a copy to the worker, a statement describing the available work in terms that will enable the physician to relate the physical activities of the job to the worker's disability. The physician shall then determine whether the worker is physically able to perform the work described. If the worker is released by his or her physician for said work, and the work thereafter comes to an end before the worker's recovery is sufficient in the judgment of his or her physician to permit him or her to return to his or her usual job, or to perform other available work, the worker's temporary total disability payments shall be resumed. Should the available work described, once undertaken by the worker, impede his or her recovery to the extent that in the judgment of his or her physician he or she should not continue to work, the worker's temporary total disability payments shall be resumed when the worker ceases such work.

Once the worker returns to work under the terms of this subsection, he or she shall not be assigned by the employer to work other than the available work described without the worker's written consent, or without prior review and approval by the worker's physician.

In the event of any dispute as to the worker's ability to perform the available work offered by the employer, the department shall make the final determination.

(5) No worker shall receive compensation for or during the day on which injury was received or the three days following the same, unless his or her disability shall continue for a period of fourteen consecutive calendar days from date of injury: **PROVIDED**, That attempts to return to work in the first fourteen days following the injury shall not serve to break the continuity of the period of disability if the disability continues fourteen days after the injury occurs.

(6) Should a worker suffer a temporary total disability and should his or her employer at the time of the injury continue to pay him or her the wages which he or she was earning at the time of such injury, such injured worker shall not receive any payment provided in subsection (1) of this section during the period his or her employer shall so pay such wages.

(7) In no event shall the monthly payments provided in this section exceed seventy-five percent of the average monthly wage in the state as computed under the provisions of RCW 51.08.018.

(8) If the supervisor of industrial insurance determines that the worker is voluntarily retired and is no longer attached to the work force, benefits shall not be paid under this section.

Sec. 4. Section 51.32.160, chapter 23, Laws of 1961 as amended by section 1, chapter 192, Laws of 1973 1st ex. sess. and RCW 51.32.160 are each amended to read as follows:

If aggravation, diminution, or termination of disability takes place or be discovered after the rate of compensation shall have been established or

compensation terminated, in any case the director, through and by means of the division of industrial insurance, may, upon the application of the beneficiary, made within seven years after the establishment or termination of such compensation, or upon his own motion, readjust for further application the rate of compensation in accordance with the rules in this section provided for the same, or in a proper case terminate the payment: PROVIDED, That the time limitation of this section shall be ten years in claims involving loss of vision or function of the eyes.

If a worker receiving a pension for total disability returns to gainful employment for wages, the director may suspend or terminate the rate of compensation established for the disability without producing medical evidence that shows that a diminution of the disability has occurred.

No act done or ordered to be done by the director, or the department prior to the signing and filing in the matter of a written order for such readjustment shall be ground for such readjustment.

NEW SECTION. Sec. 5. A new section is added to chapter 51.32 RCW to read as follows:

(1) For persons receiving compensation for temporary or permanent total disability under this title, the compensation shall be reduced by the department to allow an offset for social security retirement benefits payable under the federal social security, old age survivors, and disability insurance act, 42 U.S.C. This reduction shall not apply to any worker who is receiving permanent total disability benefits prior to the effective date of this section.

(2) Reductions for social security retirement benefits under this section shall comply with the procedures in RCW 51.32.220 (1) through (6), except those that relate to computation, and with any other procedures established by the department to administer this section.

(3) Any reduction in compensation made under chapter ... (House Bill No. 1873), Laws of 1986, shall be made before the reduction established in this section.

NEW SECTION. Sec. 6. Section 2 of this act shall expire on June 30, 1989. Section 3 of this act shall take effect on June 30, 1989. Section 5 of this act shall take effect on July 1, 1986.

Passed the House February 12, 1986.

Passed the Senate March 3, 1986.

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