



2021 Agency Request Bills

September 2021

Summaries

The Department of Labor & Industries (L&I) requested one bill in the 2021 legislative session and supported the Governor's Worker Safety bill.

ESHB 1097 (Sells) *Passed Legislature, effective 7/25/2021* – Increasing Worker Protections

The Governor's worker safety bill enhances worker protections through programs administered by Labor & Industries (L&I). The bill:

- Creates a grant program to help employers with 25 or fewer employees to meet new safety and health requirements that would be funded from workers' comp premiums when reserves are adequate;
- Establishes a daily penalty that could be imposed when an employer violates a stop work order issued by L&I's Divisional Occupational Safety and Health; and
- Strengthens protections for workers who are retaliated against for exercising their rights to a safe workplace by adding a penalty, giving more time for workers to file a complaint, and creating an administrative process so appeals go to the Board of Industrial Insurance Appeals rather than Superior court.

SHB 1206 (Berry) *Passed Legislature, effective 7/25/2021* - Extending protections for temporary workers

This bill improves safety for temporary workers in construction and manufacturing. This bill creates specific requirements for staffing agencies that provide employees to other worksites and for the employers receiving the provided employees.

Staffing agencies are required to inquire about the safety conditions at construction and manufacturing worksites to which it sends temporary workers; provide and document general industry hazard training to temporary employees; and transmit this information to the worksite employer. Worksite employers are required to inform the staffing agency and temporary employees of their workplace hazards; provide site-specific training to temporary employees; allow staffing agency representative to visit and observe the worksite to confirm hazards and training provided; and inform the staffing agency and employee of any changes in job tasks or work locations that bring new hazards.

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