

One Hundred Seventh Legislature - Second Session - 2022

Introducer's Statement of Intent

LB719

Chairperson: Senator Ben Hansen

Committee: Business and Labor

Date of Hearing: January 31, 2022

The following constitutes the reasons for this bill and the purposes which are sought to be accomplished thereby:

LB 719 updates workers' compensation weekly benefit rates by increasing the compensation rate for total injuries to 80% of the workers' average weekly wage and all other compensation rates by an additional 9%.

The bill also provides for a cost of living adjustment; allows 500 weeks of whole body permanent partial disability; requires inclusion of the overtime premium in the calculation of wages; and, permits a \$25,000 lump sum payment to the personal representatives of estates with no surviving dependents.

Weekly benefit maximums are increased to 200% of the state average weekly wage, death benefits are increased to 200% of the workers' average weekly wage in some instances, and the minimum benefit is set at 50% of the state average weekly wage.

The bill also provides workers without a documented pre-existing relationship with a physician an opportunity to choose one and provides for interpreters in all medical exams.

Principal Introducer: _____

Senator Adam Morfeld