



## HB 303 Version A Sectional Analysis

**Section 1** amends AS 23.30.005(h), by allowing implementation of a fee schedule for rehabilitation specialist services.

**Section 2** amends AS 23.30.012(a), by no longer permitting employees to settle reemployment benefits with their employers.

**Section 3** amends AS 23.30.041(b), by allowing the reemployment benefit administrator (RBA) to offer consultation services for employers on early return-to-work policies and programs and providing the RBA greater flexibility to assign and manage specialists and their services.

**Section 4** amends AS 23.30.041(c), by making eligibility evaluations voluntary instead of mandatory and establishing a deadline for an injured worker to request reemployment benefits.

**Section 5** amends AS 23.30.041(d), by extending the deadline for specialists to complete eligibility evaluations to 60 days and allowing reconsideration or modification of the RBA's decision.

**Section 6** amends AS 23.30.041(e), by requiring an injured worker's post injury job meet the worker's remunerative wage to be considered in the evaluation for eligibility.

**Section 7** repeals and reenacts AS 23.30.041(f), removing "previously rehabilitated" language and replacing it with more specific language.

**Section 8** repeals and reenacts AS 23.30.041(g), allowing injured workers more time to choose the job dislocation benefit over continuing to participate in the reemployment process.

**Section 9** amends AS 23.30.041(h), by requiring a rehabilitation specialist progress report at 60 days and allowing an employee in some circumstances to select a desired occupational goal that might result in wages lower than what the law usually allows.

**Section 10** repeals and reenacts AS 23.30.041(j), requiring the employee and employer within 30 days to either approve and sign a reemployment plan, or deny the plan by providing a specific reason for the denial, and allowing reconsideration or modification of the RBA's decision approving, denying, or changing the plan.

**Section 11** amends AS 23.30.041(k), by limiting payment of stipend benefits to not more than one year before a plan is approved and not more than two years after a plan is approved.

**Section 12** amends AS 23.30.041(l), by increasing the maximum cost for a reemployment plan to \$19,300 and providing an annual adjustment based on the consumer price index.

**Section 13** amends AS 23.30.041(n), by allowing an employer to controvert benefits if an injured worker does not cooperate with the reemployment process.

**Section 14** amends AS 23.30.041(o), by allowing reconsideration or modification of the RBA's decision on noncooperation.

**Section 15** repeals and reenacts AS 23.30.041(q), no longer permitting employees to settle reemployment benefits with their employers.

**Section 16** amends AS 23.30.041(r)(6), by providing the RBA greater flexibility to assign and manage specialists and their services.

**Section 17** adds new subsections to AS 23.30.041, allowing an injured worker 150 days after eligibility to choose the job dislocation benefit over continuing to participate in the reemployment process, increasing the job dislocation benefit amount, allowing the RBA to suspend the reemployment process under certain circumstances, allowing parties to request plan modification based on a change in conditions or a factual mistake, permitting an injured worker to voluntarily exit the reemployment process at any time, allowing parties to request reconsideration of certain RBA decisions, and establishing a process for reconsideration.

**Section 18** adds a new subsection to AS 23.30.130, allowing parties to request modification based on a change in conditions or a factual mistake, and establishing a process for modification.

**Section 19** repeals AS 23.30.041(i), because the language was moved to Section 9.

**Section 20** amends the uncodified law of the State of Alaska, by adding applicability language.