

ALASKA STATE LEGISLATURE



SENATOR ELVI GRAY-JACKSON
SENATE DISTRICT G

Sectional Analysis for SB 206

Section 1: Amends AS 23.30.005 (h) by adding a reference to new stay at work program under AS 23.30.043.

Section 2: Amends existing statute, AS 23.30.041 (b) by moving the annual reporting of reemployment benefits from May until October to match the other annual reports due. Includes each specific reporting criteria.

Section 3: Makes changes to AS 23.30.041 (c) adding thirty days to the time of required reemployment evaluations to allow for the medical stability of claimants. The amendment requires the Workers' Compensation Division to notify injured employees of rights under this section within 25 days of inability to return to the employee's employment at the time of injury, including the option of participation in the Stay At Work Program.

Section 4: Amends AS 23.30.041 (f) by adding that an employee is not eligible for reemployment benefits if a selection under AS 23.30.041(c) is not made. Or if an employee has completed a stay at work program previously or has been found noncooperative in the stay at work process under AS 23.30.043(l).

Section 5: A new section (Sec. 23.30.043) is added to establish a stay at work benefits program. A new position is added as a subject matter expert to oversee the program. A rehabilitation specialist is assigned to develop a stay at work plan requiring participation and approval from the employee, employer, and attending physician and a timeline for submission of plan. Costs are the responsibility of the employer and shall not exceed \$3,000. The maximum time frame is two years. Noncooperation is defined. Participation is voluntary. The employee may pursue reemployment benefits under AS 23.30.041 as an alternative if the employer chooses not to participate. An appeal process is outlined.

Section 6: Amends existing statute AS 23.30.100 (a) by adjusting the timeframe by 15 days for notification of a work-related injury or death.

Section 7: Amends AS 23.30.105 (a) by adding a reference to a new stay at work program established under AS 23.30.043

Section 8: Sets an effective date.