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AMENDMENT # 3

OFFERED IN THE HOUSE
TO HCS CSSB 130(JUD)

BY REPRESENTATIVE ROKEBERG

Page 30, Line 28 through Page 32, Line 8:
Delete all material and insert:

The uncodified law of the State of Alaska is amended by adding a new section to read:

TASK FORCE ON WORKERS' COMPENSATION. (a) There is established in the legislative branch the Task Force on Workers' Compensation to address the improvement of the Alaska workers' compensation system, including

(1) a review of workers' compensation and insurance reform measures throughout the United States and an assessment of the effects of those reforms:

(2) an analysis and assessment of proposals for workers' compensation and workers' compensation liability insurance reform in Alaska;

(3) a review of current Alaskan workers' compensation benefits and costs and an assessment of needed changes;

(4) a review of compliance with current Alaska workers' compensation laws;

(5) a consideration of other issues determined to be relevant by members of the task force.

(b) The task force established under (a) of the section shall consist of 13 voting members. One member shall be a state senator appointed by the president of the senate, one member shall be a state representative appointed by the speaker of the house of representatives, and one member shall be a member of the minority in either house jointly selected by the president of the senate and the speaker of the house of representatives. Ten members shall be appointed jointly by the president of the senate and speaker of the house of representatives as follows:

(1) a representative of the Alaska State Medical Association;

(2) an attorney who represents employees in workers' compensation cases;

(3) an attorney who represents employers in workers' compensation cases;

(4) a representative of the insurance industry that provides workers' compensation insurance;

(5) a representative from organized labor;

- (6) a person representing employees not represented by organized labor;
- (7) a person representing small businesses;
- (8) a person representing larger businesses;
- (9) a representative of the Alaska State Hospital and Nursing Home Association; and
- (10) a representative of self-insured employers.

(c) The task force established under (a) of this section

(1) may begin work immediately upon the appointment of its full voting membership and shall meet as often as required to meet the objectives established in this section;

(2) shall elect a chair of the task force from among its members;

(3) shall hold public hearings and may perform research related to its work;

(4) may meet in the interim and vote telephonically;

(5) shall contract with a consultant specializing in workers' compensation issues to assist the task force by researching information and conducting a comparative analysis of workers' compensation systems in other states on the topics listed in (a) of this section; the contract must require that the consultant present the result of the research and analysis to the task force on or before September 1, 2005:

(6) shall report its written findings and give a copy of proposed legislation and other recommendations to the president of the senate and the speaker of the house of representatives before the first day of the Second Regular Session of the Twenty-Forth Alaska State Legislature; and

(7) is terminated on February 1, 2006.