

The Twenty-Ninth Legislature

Regular Session of 2017

THE SENATE

Committee on Judiciary and Labor

Senator Gilbert S. C. Keith-Agaran, Chair

Senator Karl Rhoads, Vice Chair

State Capitol, Conference Room 016

Monday, February 13, 2017; 9:30 a.m.

**STATEMENT OF THE ILWU LOCAL 142 IN SUPPORT OF S.B. 1236
RELATING TO WORKERS' COMPENSATION**

The ILWU Local 142 supports S.B. 1236, which provides that the Auditor will contract with a suitable entity to conduct a study of closed claims in the workers' compensation system, that includes the study of processing time for closed claims. The bill also extends the deadline for the study to 11/30/18 and the deadline for the legislative report to twenty days prior to the regular session of 2019. An appropriation is made for the study.

The ILWU supports S.B. 1236, so that the study can be completed and used as a guide for future changes that could improve the workers' compensation system for all parties. Upon further review of the statutory language that guides the study, we would like the Committee to consider possibly including language to describe areas that the study could focus on. For example the area of IME's is still challenging, and could be one example of a focus point for the study. By providing a focus point or focus areas, this would maximize the value of the study.

The inclusion of assessing the processing time for closed claims is helpful, however it may help even more for greater guidance to be provided for the study.

The ILWU urges passage of S.B. 1236 with additional language to provide a clearer focus for the study. Thank you for the opportunity to share our views on this matter.