



Washington State Department of Labor and Industries: Volunteer Reporting Information

Volunteer Reporting Update July 2016

Recently, we received information from Washington State Labor and Industries (L&I) that affects employers who report volunteers for “medical only” workers’ compensation. Even though workers’ compensation insurance is not part of the program services that we offer, we know it is a significant part of many organizations’ risk management plan so we felt it would helpful to provide this information to our NPIP members.

The communication from L&I reads as follows:

Engrossed Substitute Senate Bill (ESSB) 6293 created a new reporting option for employers who cover their volunteers for medical only workers’ compensation. The new law also expands eligibility for medical only coverage to a larger group of individuals. L&I is adopting emergency rules to implement these changes effective June 9, 2016, with permanent rulemaking to follow.

ESSB 6293:

*Allows all entities with coverage for volunteers, student volunteers, or unpaid students to cap reporting at 100 hours per qualifying volunteer per **calendar** year, instead of reporting actual hours.*

Allows public and private colleges to create unpaid student or volunteer programs with for-profit or nonprofit businesses, and for those businesses to elect medical only coverage for those students. Also, private colleges will now be able to elect medical only coverage for students volunteering for the college itself. (Current law requires state colleges to cover volunteers serving the college, but allows only nonprofit charitable organizations to elect coverage for volunteers).

Allows private K through 12 schools to create volunteer programs with businesses and for those businesses to elect medical only coverage for those student volunteers. (Current law allows businesses to elect medical only coverage for student volunteers in such programs in public K through 12 schools).

You may find more information about medical only workers’ compensation coverage for volunteers at: www.lni.wa.gov/ClaimsIns/Insurance/Learn/Volunteers.

You may find current detailed information about the rulemaking at: www.lni.wa.gov/riskclassrules.

Please contact JoAnne Attwood at JoAnne.Attwood@lni.wa.gov, if you have questions or feedback.

A first read of this bill gives the impression of only applying to student volunteers, but L&I assures us that its intent applies to other situations as well.

As noted above, JoAnne Attwood would be an appropriate contact for rulemaking questions. L&I also maintains a very helpful outreach assistance program and Roseann Collins, Outreach Specialist Supervisor, would be an excellent contact for further assistance. Her contact information follows:

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