

STATE OF OKLAHOMA

2nd Session of the 47th Legislature (2000)

HOUSE BILL HB2608

By: Calvey

AS INTRODUCED

An Act relating to workers' compensation; providing for financial incentives to state agencies that reduce workers' compensation costs to the agencies through increased appropriations; providing method for calculating incentives; funding the appropriations increases from the reduction in workers' compensation and safety costs; placing limitations on the use of the incentives; providing methods of distribution of incentives; providing for enforcement by the Department of Labor; designating the agencies that are eligible to receive the incentives; directing the Department of Labor to promote the incentive program and providing appropriations; providing a penalty for violation of the act; and providing an effective date.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF OKLAHOMA:

SECTION 1. NEW LAW A new section of law to be codified in the Oklahoma Statutes as Section 300 of Title 85, unless there is created a duplication in numbering, reads as follows:

In order to attain greater compliance by state and public agencies in the state with provisions of Section 403 of Title 40 of the Oklahoma Statutes, which require employers with twenty-five or more employees to designate a safety coordinator and to provide safety training to all employees on a quarterly basis for the purpose of reducing workers' compensation costs, an incentive to comply is hereby created in the form of an additional appropriation for complying state agencies. This incentive takes the form of a return to the agency of all financial savings that can be verifiably calculated by the Office of State Finance. The incentive is only available to state agencies that are in compliance with the requirements of Section 403 of Title 40 of the Oklahoma Statutes,

have successfully reduced workers' compensation claims and have generated safety savings from their actions.

SECTION 2. NEW LAW A new section of law to be codified in the Oklahoma Statutes as Section 301 of Title 85, unless there is created a duplication in numbering, reads as follows:

The additional incentive will be appropriated on an annual basis, with such incentive being calculated on data beginning with fiscal year 1999 for fiscal year 2001 distribution. The appropriation shall continue to be calculated on this two-year basis.

SECTION 3. NEW LAW A new section of law to be codified in the Oklahoma Statutes as Section 302 of Title 85, unless there is created a duplication in numbering, reads as follows:

The incentive dollars appropriated shall only be used for the following:

1. Incentive bonus pay for state agency personnel in recognition of their performance in reducing workers' compensation costs and for providing additional safety training; or
2. Purchase of equipment which will help foster additional reductions of workers' compensation costs.

SECTION 4. NEW LAW A new section of law to be codified in the Oklahoma Statutes as Section 304 of Title 85, unless there is created a duplication in numbering, reads as follows:

Workers' compensation and safety savings generated by a state agency shall be fully appropriated each year back to the agency that generated the savings. Dollars appropriated as salary bonuses are one-time payments and shall not be considered as part of the base pay for employees. Incentives in the form of pay bonuses may, at the option of the agency, be distributed in lump sum or distributed over twelve (12) months in the regular pay of the employees.

SECTION 5. NEW LAW A new section of law to be codified in the Oklahoma Statutes as Section 305 of Title 85, unless there is created a duplication in numbering, reads as follows:

Any equipment or training provided by the incentive funds shall be restricted to equipment or training that may reasonably result in a reduction in:

1. Injuries;
2. Illnesses;
3. Lost work days;
4. Workers' compensation insurance costs;
5. Medical expenses;
6. Hazard reductions; and
7. Reduced risks.

The incentive funds may not be used for vehicles, construction, maintenance, remodeling or other items that should be programmed for regular replacement under sound fiscal management. Any enforcement of this section shall be the responsibility of the Public Employee Occupational Health and Safety Division of the Department of Labor.

SECTION 6. NEW LAW A new section of law to be codified in the Oklahoma Statutes as Section 306 of Title 85, unless there is created a duplication in numbering, reads as follows:

This incentive program shall be applicable to all state agencies and any agency or organization over which the state exercises dominion and control, whether the agency or organization is supported by state tax revenue, federal funds or self-generated income. The state encourages all levels of public agencies to implement similar incentive programs to stimulate improvements in reducing the cost of workers' compensation and improving the work environment for all public employees. In order to promote this incentive program with other public sector organizations, the Department of Labor shall include promotion of this incentive program in Department of Labor promotions, including promotion

materials, relative to consultation. The Department of Labor is hereby provided an appropriation of Fifty Thousand Dollars (\$50,000.00) on an annual basis for this promotion. This appropriation is provided to show the intent and seriousness of the Legislature relative to improving safety and reducing workers' compensation costs in the State of Oklahoma.

SECTION 7. NEW LAW A new section of law to be codified in the Oklahoma Statutes as Section 307 of Title 85, unless there is created a duplication in numbering, reads as follows:

An agency in violation of this section shall forfeit any incentive that may be due to the agency in the future, or at the option of the Legislature, the appropriations of the agency shall be reduced by the amount of the incentive received by the agency in the preceding year.

SECTION 8. This act shall become effective November 1, 2000.

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