The original instrument and the following digest, which constitutes no part of the legislative instrument, were prepared by Carla S. Roberts.

DIGEST

Murray (SB 159)

<u>Present law</u> provides that the calculation of workers' compensation benefits is based upon the manner in which the employee is paid for their work.

<u>Present law</u> provides that if the employee is employed at an annual salary, his annual salary will be divided by 52 in order to calculate his workers' compensation benefits.

<u>Proposed law</u> retains <u>present law</u> but provides that even though the employee has not yet received the first paycheck of the employee's annual salary, the employee's workers' compensation benefit will be computed by dividing his annual salary by 52 weeks.

<u>Proposed law</u> retains <u>present law</u> but provides that if the individual is a salaried employee but the employer and employee have agreed by contract that the salary will be paid during regular occurring periods of less than 52 weeks, the employee's wages will be calculated by dividing the employee's total contractually agreed upon salary by the number of weeks provided for in the employment contract so long as the employee is not a seasonal worker.

Effective upon signature of the governor or lapse of time for gubernatorial action.

(Amends R.S. 23:1021(13)(c))