Regular Session, 2011

HOUSE BILL NO. 502

BY REPRESENTATIVE PONTI

Prefiled pursuant to Article III, Section 2(A)(4)(b)(i) of the Constitution of Louisiana.

WORKERS COMPENSATION: Provides relative to the Second Injury Fund

AN ACT

To enact R.S. 23:1377(G), relative to workers compensation; to provide with respect to the Second Injury Fund; and to provide for related matters.

Be it enacted by the Legislature of Louisiana:

Section 1. R.S. 23:1377(G) is hereby enacted to read as follows:

§1377. Workers' Compensation Second Injury Fund

* * *

G. The Second Injury Board may approve an annual lump-sum amount up to one percent of the board's annual budget to be allocated to Louisiana Rehabilitation Services for use in assisting potential employers and qualified employees with permanent partial disabilities under the Louisiana Rehabilitation Services Vocational Rehabilitation Program. Services may include work evaluation and job readiness services, assessment for and provision of assistive technology, and workstation modification directly related to the employment, reemployment, or retention of such employees. The funds paid by the Second Injury Board, as well as any fund matching and earned interest, shall only be used for these purposes. The Louisiana Rehabilitation Services shall provide the Second Injury Board with a quarterly report to include funding balances and expenditures as well as case statistical information.

CODING: Words in ~~struck through~~ type are deletions from existing law; words underscored are additions.

DIGEST

The digest printed below was prepared by House Legislative Services. It constitutes no part of the legislative instrument. The keyword, one-liner, abstract, and digest do not constitute part of the law or proof or indicia of legislative intent. [R.S. 1:13(B) and 24:177(E)]

Ponti HB No. 502

Abstract: Authorizes the Second Injury Board to allocate funds to assist employers and employees with disabilities.

Present law creates the Workers' Compensation Second Injury Fund to fund the administrative expenses of the Second Injury Board and to reimburse compensable claims of property and casualty insurers, self-insured employers, and group self-insurance funds.

Proposed law provides that the Second Injury Board may approve funds to be allocated to the La. Rehabilitation Services to assist potential employers and qualified employees with disabilities.

Proposed law requires the La. Rehabilitation Services to provide a quarterly report to the Second Injury Fund Board.

(Adds R.S. 23:1377(G))

Summary of Amendments Adopted by House

Committee Amendments Proposed by House Committee on Labor and Industrial Relations to the original bill.

1. Deleted proposed law provisions regarding vocational rehabilitation and functional capacity evaluation testing.

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