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

DIGEST

SB 107 Original

2015 Regular Session

Peacock

<u>Present law</u> encourages employers to retain and hire employees with a pre-existing permanent partial disability by providing for reimbursement from the Second Injury Fund to the employer or its insurer, for workers' compensation benefits beyond a scheduled threshold, where both of the following occur:

- (1) The employer had prior knowledge of the pre-existing disability.
- (2) Is liable for benefits as the result of a subsequent compensable accident causing a second injury that merges with the pre-existing injury to cause greater liability and harm to the employee than would have existed otherwise.

<u>Present law</u> provides a reimbursement schedule which, for second injuries occurring between July 1, 2010, and July 1, 2015, excludes the first 104 weeks of indemnity benefits and the first \$25,000 of medical benefits from reimbursement.

<u>Proposed law</u> retains <u>present law</u> but extends the end date contained in the reimbursement schedule <u>from</u> July 1, 2015, to July 1, 2020.

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

(Amends R.S. 23:1378(A)(intro para))