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FISCAL IMPACT REPORT

ORIGINAL DATE 01/31/13

SPONSOR Larrañaga LAST UPDATED _____ HB 261

SHORT TITLE Workers' Comp "Impairment" Definition SB _____

ANALYST Aledo-Sandoval

APPROPRIATION (dollars in thousands)

Appropriation		Recurring or Nonrecurring	Fund Affected
FY13	FY14		
NFI	NFI	N/A	N/A

(Parenthesis () Indicate Expenditure Decreases)

SOURCES OF INFORMATION

LFC Files

Responses Received From

Workers' Compensation Administration (WCA)

SUMMARY

Synopsis of Bill

House Bill 261 amends the definition of "impairment" as used in the Workers' Compensation Act to clarify that the impairment rating pursuant to the most recent edition of the American Medical Association's Guides to the Evaluation of Permanent Impairment is in effect as of the date at which a worker reaches maximum medical improvement.

FISCAL IMPLICATIONS

There is no fiscal impact.

SIGNIFICANT ISSUES

According to the WCA, disputes arise during the course of treatment as to which version of the American Medical Association Guides should be applied. There are uncertainties between using the version in effect on the date of injury or the version in effect on the date of maximum medical improvement. The WCA asserts that HB261 should provide clarity and decrease litigation on the issue. The Advisory Council on Workers' Compensation and Occupational Disease has approved this amendment.