
SENATE BILL 6227

State of Washington

65th Legislature

2018 Regular Session

By Senators Keiser, Conway, and Saldaña

1 AN ACT Relating to reducing the causes of workplace injuries
2 suffered by commercial janitors through a study of work environment,
3 workload, training, and the tools and equipment used in the work
4 performed and to identify best practices; adding a new section to
5 chapter 49.17 RCW; creating a new section; and providing an
6 expiration date.

7 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF WASHINGTON:

8 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** Data from the department of labor and
9 industries indicate that commercial janitors historically have had a
10 higher rate of approved injury claims compared to other sectors. Data
11 also show that women comprise only about one-third of the janitorial
12 workforce, yet female janitors have about twice the rate of
13 compensable injuries than male janitors. Additionally, state worker
14 compensation system data shows female janitors have higher median
15 medical costs than their male counter parts and require more time off
16 work when injured on the job.

17 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** A new section is added to chapter 49.17
18 RCW to read as follows:

19 (1) Within existing resources, the department must conduct a
20 study on commercial janitorial safety that measures the workers'

1 safety and health risks associated with their work tasks, taking into
2 consideration their work environment, workload, training, and the
3 tools and equipment they use.

4 (2) To the greatest extent possible, the department must conduct
5 the study using methods that will allow the data to be extrapolated
6 to other comparable industries, such as hospitality and retail, with
7 the goal of creating safety and injury prevention practices that
8 benefit workers in other industries.

9 (3) The department must complete the study by December 31, 2022.
10 Beginning December 31, 2018, and until the completion of the study,
11 the department must provide annual reports of its progress and
12 findings to the labor committees of the house of representatives and
13 the senate.

14 (4) This section expires December 31, 2023.

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