

Executive Summary: Health Impact Review of H-0915.3/15

Concerning Commercial Janitorial Services

Evidence indicates that there are high rates of injury among commercial janitors, that these employees often report having inadequate time to complete their work, and that reducing workload and rushing among these employees would likely decrease workplace injury disparities by race/ethnicity, English proficiency, country of origin, education, and income. However, it is not clear from available studies if the specific standards required in H-0915.3/15 would lead to decreased work intensity and rushing.

DRAFT BILL INFORMATION

Summary of Draft Bill:

- Requires the Department of Labor & Industries (L&I) to develop rules creating workload standards for employees performing commercial janitorial services which must, at a minimum, provide that:
 - The maximum square footage of cleanable area for a full-time janitor's eight-hour shift cannot exceed 30,000 square feet.
 - Heavy equipment such as floor buffers and janitor carts must be kept on each floor.
 - Janitors are prohibited from carrying cleaning equipment weighing more than twenty pounds if they must use stairs to access different floors.
- Requires L&I to establish a health and safety training program for commercial janitorial employees and supervising managers by rule that provides a minimum of eight hours of training each year.
- Stipulates that in order for a commercial janitorial service business to qualify for the retail sales tax exemption under RCW 82.04.050(2)(d) the business must meet several criteria including maintaining records documenting compliance with the workload standards and training requirements established under L&I rule described above.
- Requires the Joint Legislative Audit and Review Committee to assess the performance of the retail sales tax exemption for commercial janitorial businesses by December 1, 2024.

HEALTH IMPACT REVIEW

Summary of Findings:

The health impact review found the following evidence regarding the provisions in H-0915.3/15:

- Strong evidence that at a least a proportion of the industry would comply with new workload standards for commercial janitors.
- A fair amount of evidence that reduced workload and rushing among commercial janitorial employees would lead to reduced injury rates among this population.
- Very strong evidence that reducing injury rates among commercial janitorial employees will decrease workplace injury disparities.
- Evidence indicates that there are high rates of injury among these workers; that time pressure is common among these employees; and that time pressure is a significant risk factor for injuries such as those to the hands, wrists, shoulders, and back. However, the specific provisions of H-0915.3/15 are not well researched so it is unclear if they would lead to decreased work intensity and rushing among janitors. Available information and national guidance that relate to the bill provisions are provided in the full review.

FULL REVIEW

For review methods, logic model, strength-of-evidence analyses, and citations of empirical evidence refer to the full health impact review: http://sboh.wa.gov/Portals/7/Doc/HealthImpactReviews/HIR-2015-09-H-0915.3_15.pdf

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