

INITIATIVE 882

I, Sam Reed, Secretary of State of the State of Washington and custodian of its seal, hereby certify that, according to the records on file in my office, the attached copy of Initiative Measure No. 882 to the People is a true and correct copy as it was received by this office.

1 AN ACT Relating to electing a nonpartisan director for the
2 department of labor and industries; amending RCW 43.17.020; adding a
3 new section to chapter 49.12 RCW; and creating new sections.

4 BE IT ENACTED BY THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF WASHINGTON:

5 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** The people of Washington find and declare as
6 follows:

7 (1) The department of labor and industries has oppressively
8 burdened workers and businesses with enormous increases in the cost of
9 insurance premiums paid to the state worker compensation fund. These
10 increased charges are excessive, unjustified, and arbitrary;

11 (2) The department of labor and industries unfairly and
12 inadequately protects workers and businesses through the mismanagement
13 of worker compensation benefits. Fundamental efforts to reform the
14 system and to prevent fraud and waste have been resisted by the
15 department of labor and industries;

16 (3) The department of labor and industries has failed to properly
17 account for billions of dollars paid by workers and businesses into the
18 state worker compensation fund;

1 (4) The department of labor and industries has zealously over-
2 regulated workers and businesses causing deep job losses and
3 impoverishing the state economy; and

4 (5) The department of labor and industries has wasted millions of
5 federal and state dollars in a duplicative safety program that is not
6 as effective as the existing federal safety program.

7 Therefore, the people of Washington declare that reform and
8 accountability is necessary. The director of the department of labor
9 and industries shall be elected by the people as a nonpartisan position
10 in the same time, place, and manner and for the same term as the
11 governor.

12 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** The purpose of this act is to provide for an
13 accountable director of the department of labor and industries who
14 shall ensure that the worker compensation system is solvent, fair,
15 available, and affordable for all Washington residents.

16 An elected director of the department of labor and industries shall
17 protect workers and businesses from arbitrary insurance rates and
18 practices, protect workers and businesses from over-zealous and
19 unreasonable regulation, properly account for funds paid by workers and
20 businesses, and maintain the solvency of the fund.

21 **Sec. 3.** RCW 43.17.020 and 1995 1st sp.s. c 2 s 2 are each amended
22 to read as follows:

23 There shall be a chief executive officer of each department to be
24 known as: (1) The secretary of social and health services, (2) the
25 director of ecology, (3) the director of labor and industries, (4) the
26 director of agriculture, (5) the director of fish and wildlife, (6) the
27 secretary of transportation, (7) the director of licensing, (8) the
28 director of general administration, (9) the director of community,
29 trade, and economic development, (10) the director of veterans affairs,
30 (11) the director of revenue, (12) the director of retirement systems,
31 (13) the secretary of corrections, ((and)) (14) the secretary of
32 health, and (15) the director of financial institutions.

33 Such officers, except the secretary of transportation, the director
34 of labor and industries, and the director of fish and wildlife, shall
35 be appointed by the governor, with the consent of the senate, and hold
36 office at the pleasure of the governor. The secretary of
37 transportation shall be appointed by the transportation commission as

1 prescribed by RCW 47.01.041. The director of labor and industries
2 shall be elected as prescribed in section 4 of this act. The director
3 of fish and wildlife shall be appointed by the fish and wildlife
4 commission as prescribed by RCW 77.04.055.

5 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 4.** A new section is added to chapter 49.12 RCW
6 to read as follows:

7 (1) The director shall be elected by the people as a nonpartisan
8 position in the same time, place, and manner and for the same term as
9 the governor.

10 (2) The appointed director serving in office on the effective date
11 of this section shall continue in office until a successor is duly
12 elected and qualified in the next general election.

13 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 5.** The provisions of this act are to be
14 liberally construed to effectuate the intent, policies, and purposes of
15 this act.

16 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 6.** If any provision of this act or its
17 application to any person or circumstance is held invalid, the
18 remainder of the act or the application of the provision to other
19 persons or circumstances is not affected.

--- END ---