

**HB 39: Workers Compensation Amendments
2008 Budget Session**

Sponsor: Joint Labor, Health and Social Services Interim Committee

HB 39 would have allowed the Wyoming Department of Employment's Workers Compensation Division to give premium credits (refunds of previous years' premiums applied to current years' premiums) to employers in good standing. Under current law, the Workers Compensation Division can give premium credits, but only if it gives the refunds to all employers including those who are delinquent in paying their premiums.

The bill also would have allowed workers compensation benefits to be offered to sole proprietors and partners in business partnerships on an elective basis.

Wyoming workers, labor organizations and attorneys opposed HB 39, arguing that benefits to injured workers under the Wyoming Workers Compensation Act have been steadily diminished over the years. They argued that, before reducing premiums to benefit employers, the Workers Compensation Division must ensure that Wyoming workers are receiving the medical care and other benefits they were promised when the Workers Compensation system, which prevents injured workers from suing negligent employers, was set up.

Supporters of HB 39 felt that the system is working well enough and that employers in good standing deserve the reduction in premiums.

HB 39 did not pass the House vote for introduction, failing on a 15-45 vote. The vote listed below is the House vote for introduction. A YES vote means the representative wanted to consider giving premium credits for workers compensation insurance to selected employers. A NO vote means the representative did not want to give employers such refunds for their workers compensation premiums.

Bighorn Basin Legislators		HB 39 Intro
S 18	Hank Coe (R)	
H 24	Colin Simpson (R)	No
H 50	Pat Childers (R)	Yes
S 19	Ray Peterson (R)	
H 25	Alan Jones (R)	No
H 26	Elaine Harvey (R)	Yes
S 20	Gerald E. Geis (R)	
H 27	Debbie Hammons (D)	No
H 28	Lorraine Quarberg (R)	No

Casper-Area Legislators		HB 39 Intro
S 27	Bill Landen (R)	
H 35	Roy Cohee (R)	No
H 36	Mary Hales (R)	No
S 28	Kit Jennings (R)	
H 56	Tim Stubson (R)	Yes
H 57	Thomas A. Lockhart (R)	No
S 29	Drew A Perkins (R)	
H 37	Steve Harshman (R)	No
H 59	Mary Gilmore (D)	No
S 30	Charles K. Scott (R)	
H 38	Bob Brechtel (R)	No
H 58	Lisa Shepperson (R)	No

Cheyenne-Area Legislators		HB 39 Intro
S 4	Tony Ross (R)	
H 7	Doug Samuelson (R)	No
H 41	Ken A Esquibel (D)	No
S 5	Robert (Bob) Fecht (R)	
H 8	Lori Millin (D)	No
H 42	Pete Illoway (R)	No
S 6	Wayne H. Johnson (R)	
H 9	David Zwonitzer (R)	Yes
H 10	Rodney "Pete" Anderson (R)	Yes
S 7	Kathryn Sessions (D)	
H 11	Mary Throne (D)	No
H 43	Dan Zwonitzer (R)	Yes
S 8	E. Jayne Mockler (D)	
H 12	Amy L Edmonds (R)	No
H 44	Floyd Esquibel (D)	No

Gillette-Area Legislators		HB 39 Intro
S 23	John Hines (R)	
H 31	Thomas E. Lubnau II (R)	No
H 52	Sue Wallis (R)	Yes
S 24	Michael Von Flatern (R)	
H 32	Timonthy Hallinan (R)	Yes
H 53	Erin Mercer (R)	No

Lander/Riverton-Area Legislators		HB 39 Intro
S 25	Cale Case (R)	
H 33	W. Patrick Goggles (D)	No
H 54	Del McOmie (R)	No
S 26	Eli Bebout (R)	
H 34	Frank Philp (R)	No
H 55	David Miller (R)	No

Northeast/East Central WY Legislators		HB 39 Intro
S 1	C.L. Townsend (R)	
H 1	Mark Semlek (R)	Yes
H 2	Ross Diercks (D)	No
S 2	Jim Anderson (R)	
H 5	Matt Teeters (R)	Yes
H 6	Dave Edwards (R)	No
S 3	Curt Meier (R)	
H 3	Deborah Alden (R)	No
H 4	Edward A. Buchanan (R)	No

Sheridan-Area Legislators		HB 39 Intro
S 21	Bruce Burns (R)	
H 29	Jerry Iekel (R)	Yes
H 51	Rosie Berger (R)	No
S 22	John Schiffer (R)	
H 30	Jack Landon (R)	No
H 40	Mike Madden (R)	Yes

South Central WY Legislators		HB 39 Intro
S 9	Mike Massie (D)	
H 13	Jane Warren (D)	No
H 45	Kevin A. White (R)	No
S 10	Phil Nicholas (R)	
H 14	Kermit C. Brown (R)	No
H 46	James Slater (R)	No
S 11	Bill Vasey (D)	
H 15	George Bagby (D)	No
H 47	William Steward (R)	Yes

Southwest WY Legislators		HB 39 Intro
S 12	Rae Lynn Job (D)	
H 48	Marty Martin (D)	No
H 16	Pete Jorgensen (D)	No
S 13	John M Hastert (D)	
H 17	Bernadine Craft (D)	No
H 60	Bill Thompson (D)	No
S 14	Stan Cooper (R)	
H 18	Allen Jaggi (R)	No
H 39	Stan Blake (D)	No
S 15	Ken Decaria (D)	
H 19	Owen Petersen (R)	No
H 49	Saundra Meyer (D)	No

West Central WY Legislators		HB 39 Intro
S 16	Pat Aullman (R)	
H 20	Kathy Davison (R)	No
H 21	Dan Dockstader (R)	No
S 17	Grant Larson (R)	
H 22	Monte Olsen (R)	Yes
H 23	Keith Gingery (R)	Yes
See Southwest Region for H 16 and S 12		