

Legislative Analysis



PROHIBIT WORKPLACE ERGONOMICS RULES

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House Bill 5447

Sponsor: Rep. Rick Jones

Committee: Commerce

Complete to 1-13-06

A SUMMARY OF HOUSE BILL 5447 AS INTRODUCED 11-29-05

The bill would amend the Michigan Occupational Safety and Health Act to prohibit the promulgation of rules regarding workplace ergonomics.

A department, board, or commission authorized under the act to promulgate rules could provide guidance, best practice information, or assistance for the voluntary implementation or practice of a workplace ergonomics program, but could not promulgate a rule regarding workplace ergonomics.

The term "workplace ergonomics" is defined in the bill to mean a program or practice that addresses musculoskeletal disorders that are caused by repetitive motion or stress.

MCL 408.1017

FISCAL IMPACT:

Section 354 of Public Act 156 of 2005, the FY 2006 budget for the Department of Labor and Economic Growth, prohibits funding to support the development of mandatory ergonomics rules. Section 354 says:

. . . no funds shall be used to support the development of, or activities that promote the development of, guidelines, rules, standards, protocols, or other similar mandates that are more stringent than federal voluntary ergonomic guidelines. This section does not prohibit any person from adopting, or working with the state to develop, voluntary ergonomics standards.

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