

1 TO THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES:

2 The Committee on Commerce and Economic Development to which was
3 referred House Bill No. 669 entitled “An act relating to a Department of Labor
4 study and report concerning workers’ compensation and opiate abuse”
5 respectfully reports that it has considered the same and recommends that the
6 bill be amended by striking out all after the enacting clause and inserting in
7 lieu thereof the following:

8 Sec. 1. DEPARTMENT OF LABOR STUDY ON WORKERS’
9 COMPENSATION AND OPIATES

10 (a) The Department of Labor shall study the best way to address the impact
11 of opiate abuse upon the workers’ compensation system, including the
12 following issues:

13 (1) whether to establish a pharmacy benefit manager program for
14 prescription drugs under the workers’ compensation system;

15 (2) whether there are more effective ways to manage and control the
16 prescription of opiates for injured workers who are covered by the workers’
17 compensation system;

18 (3) whether there are alternative treatment approaches that may produce
19 better outcomes with respect to the ability of individuals to recover and return
20 to work;

1 (4) the number of injured workers who are covered by the workers'
2 compensation system that abuse opiates, and how to obtain and track data to be
3 able to measure whether this number increases or decreases in the future; and

4 (5) best practices for managing and controlling the prescription of
5 opiates for injured workers who are covered by the workers' compensation
6 system and how other states have addressed this issue.

7 (b) The Department of Labor shall consult with stakeholders, including
8 health care and insurance providers and appropriate State agencies and
9 departments. State agencies and departments shall cooperate with the
10 Department of Labor.

11 (c) On or before December 1, 2016, the Department shall submit a written
12 report to the House Committee on Commerce and Economic Development and
13 the Senate Committee on Economic Development, Housing and General
14 Affairs with its findings and recommendations.

15 Sec. 2. EFFECTIVE DATE

16 This act shall take effect on July 1, 2016.

17
18 (Committee vote: _____)

19 _____

20 Representative _____

21 FOR THE COMMITTEE