

1 S.34

2 Senator Ashe moves that the bill be amended after Sec. 9, 32 V.S.A.
3 § 9706(kk), by inserting a reader assistance heading and a Sec. 9a to read as
4 follows:

5 * * * Workers' Compensation * * *

6 Sec. 9a. WORKERS' COMPENSATION; FORESTRY, LOGGING, AND
7 AGRICULTURE; STUDY; REPORT

8 (a) The Commissioner of Financial Regulation, in consultation with the
9 Commissioner of Labor, the National Council on Compensation Insurance, and
10 other interested stakeholders, shall identify and study occupations in
11 Vermont's forestry, logging, and agriculture sectors that experience a high risk
12 of workplace and on-the-job injuries and whose workers' compensation
13 insurance is characterized by high premiums and few policy holders in the
14 insurance pool. In particular, the Commissioner shall:

15 (1) examine differences in the potential for loss, premium rates, and
16 experience and participation in the workers' compensation marketplace
17 between the identified occupations and the average for all industries and
18 occupations in Vermont;

19 (2) study potential methods for reducing workers' compensation
20 premium rates and costs for the identified occupations, without diminishing the
21 rights and benefits of injured workers, including risk pooling between multiple

1 high-risk industries or occupations, creating self-insured trusts, creating
2 voluntary safety certification programs, and programs or best practices
3 employed by other states; and

4 (3) model the potential impact on workers' compensation premiums and
5 costs from each of the methods identified pursuant to subdivision (2) of this
6 subsection.

7 (b) On or before November 15, 2018, the Commissioner of Financial
8 Regulation shall submit a written report to the House Committees on
9 Agriculture and Forestry and on Commerce and Economic Development and
10 the Senate Committees on Agriculture and on Finance regarding his or her
11 findings and any recommendations for legislative action to reduce the workers'
12 compensation premium rates and costs, without diminishing the rights and
13 benefits of injured workers, for the occupations identified in the study.