



VERMONT LEGISLATIVE
Joint Fiscal Office

1 Baldwin Street • Montpelier, VT 05633-5701 • (802) 828-2295 • <https://jfo.vermont.gov>

Fiscal Note

April 22, 2026

Patrick Titterton, Senior Fiscal Analyst

S.173 – An act relating to workers’ compensation and the Vermont Labor Relations Board

As recommended by the House Committee on Commerce and Economic Development, Draft 3.1¹

Bill Summary

This bill proposes to make changes to provisions relating to workers compensation and vocational rehabilitation. It would create the Vocational Rehabilitation Working Group to provide recommendations on how to improve the current vocational rehabilitation system.

Fiscal Impact

Members of the Working Group would be eligible to receive per diem compensation and reimbursement for expenses for up to five meetings, an estimated cost to the Department of Labor of \$4,000 in fiscal year 2027.

Background and Details

Section 2: Vocational Rehabilitation Working Group

Section 2 would establish the Vocational Rehabilitation Working Group to provide recommendations to the General Assembly on how to improve the current vocational rehabilitation system. This 10-member Working Group would be comprised of:

- One member of the House of Representatives;
- One member of the Senate;
- The Commissioner of Labor, or designee;
- The Commissioner of Financial Regulation, or designee;
- Two representatives of workers’ compensation claimants;
- Two representatives of employers and workers’ compensation insurance carriers; and
- Two vocational rehabilitation counselors currently certified in Vermont.

¹ *The Joint Fiscal Office (JFO) is a nonpartisan legislative office dedicated to producing unbiased fiscal analysis – this fiscal note is meant to provide information for legislative consideration, not to provide policy recommendations.*

The full fiscal note history is available on the fiscal tab of the bill page on the General Assembly website and can be pulled up through a bill number search on the JFO page.

The Commissioner of Labor or designee would serve as chair and would call the first meeting on or before August 14, 2026. The Working Group would receive administrative, technical, and legal support from the Department of Labor (DOL). The Working Group would submit a report to the General Assembly detailing their recommendations by December 15, 2026. Certain members would be eligible for per diem compensation and expense reimbursement for up to five meetings, an estimated cost of \$4,000 to DOL in fiscal year 2027. This bill language does not authorize legislators to receive per diems for these off session meetings.