

**Minutes**  
**Labor-Management Advisory Council Telephone Conference**  
**January 20, 2017**

**Advisory Council and Subcommittee members present:**

Lt. Governor Mike Cooney  
Eric Strauss, ERD Administer  
Jason Swant, Project Manager  
Mark Cadwallader, Legal Counsel Department of Labor and Industry  
Al Smith, Montana Trial Lawyers Association  
Don Judge, Injured Workers Resource Council  
Larry Jones, Montana Self-Insureds Association  
Lance Zanto, Workers' Compensation Management Bureau  
Chris Cavazos, Montana AFL-CIO  
Alan Hulse and Ann Komac - MMIA

**Advisory Council and Subcommittee members via telephone**

Nicole Thuotte, Montana Public Employee Association  
Kevin Braun, Montana State Fund  
Doug Buman, Laborers' International Union of North America  
Jim Larson, Teamsters Local 190  
Annette Hoffman, St. Vincent Healthcare

Bill Dahlgren's proxy was Lance Zanto  
Marvin Jordan's proxy was Larry Jones

**Others Present via telephone:**

Attorneys Dick Martin, FairClaim

**Welcome and Introductions**

**II. Approval of Agenda and Previous Minutes**

The minutes from the January 13, 2017 meeting and agenda were approved.

**III. 2017 Workers' Compensation Legislation – Eric Straus**

**HB 229:** Allowing worker to choose treating physician in workers' compensation cases. A hearing is scheduled for January 27, 2017 at 8:30 a.m.

**HB 268:** Create offense related to assault on healthcare and emergency providers. A hearing will be held January 23, 2017 at 9:00. Lance Zanto and Jim Larson will testify in support of the bill.

**SB 72:** Create presumptive illness for firefighters. A hearing was held and the bill passed committee with an amendment regarding how the bill will be funded.

**SB 116:** Disallowing workers' compensation benefits for certain false statements. A hearing will be held next week. LMAC is not taking a position on this bill.

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**HB 275:** Revise laws related to occupational diseases. A hearing will be held next week.

**SB 142:** Revise laws related to volunteer emergency personnel and worker's comp insurance. LMAC will monitor

As an FYI, language is being finalized on the drug formulary

Mark Cadwallader advised of **HB 239** Provide income tax benefits to employers and students for higher education costs. In the aspect of workers' compensation, the money will not be considered wages.

Al Smith advised Representative Dan Harris will be doing a study on workers' compensation laws. Chris Cavazos volunteered to meet with him to obtain information.

**Public Comment**

No Public Comment

**Next Steps**

Bill Status tracking

Next meeting: January 27, 2017

The meeting was adjourned