

**Minutes**  
**Labor-Management Advisory Council Telephone Conference**  
**March 10, 2017**

**Advisory Council and Subcommittee members present:**

Larry Jones, Montana Self Insureds Association  
Al Smith, Montana Trial Lawyers Association  
Chris Cavazos, Montana AFL-CIO  
Don Judge, Injured Workers' Resource Council

**Subcommittee members present:**

Nicole Thuotte, Montana Public Employees Association

**Advisory Council and Subcommittee members via telephone:**

Bill Dahlgren, Sun Mountain Sports, proxy for Lance Zanto  
Annette Hoffman, St. Vincent Hospital  
Jim Larson, Teamsters Local 190

**Others Present:**

Lt. Governor, Mike Cooney, Chair  
Eric Strauss, Administrator ERD  
Jason Swant, Project Manager  
Mark Cadwallader, Legal Counsel Department of Labor and Industry  
Cindy Zimmerman, SAW/RTW, ERD

**Members of the public:**

Jon Metropoulos, Attorney  
Bridger Mahlum, Montana Chamber  
Scott Richner, Attorney (telephone)

**Welcome and roll call**

**Approval of Minutes/Agenda.** The agenda and minutes from the 02/17/17 and 02/24/17 meetings were approved.

**III. Introduced bills monitored:**

**HB 229:** Allowing worker to choose treating physician in workers' compensation cases  
Missed transmittal.

**HB 346:** Designate fiscal agent as employer for workers' compensation insurance  
Third reading to be held March 10, 2017.

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**HB 358:** Revise workers' compensation laws pertaining to release of information  
Hearing scheduled for March 10, 2017

**HB 395:** Require PSC approval of certain hospital charges. Tabled.

**HB 409:** Restrict opioid prescriptions. Missed transmittal.

**HB 449:** Revise the definition of wages in workers' compensation insurance. Scheduled  
for hearing March 15, 2017

**HB 490:** Exempt certain sports coaches from unemployment, workers' comp exemption.  
Missed transmittal.

**SB 72:** Create presumptive illness for firefighters. Hearing held March 8, 2017

**SB 116:** Disallowing workers' compensation benefits for certain false statements.  
Hearing scheduled for March 21, 2017.

**SB 142:** Revise laws related to volunteer emergency personnel and worker's comp  
insurance. 2<sup>nd</sup> hearing held. Third scheduled for March 10, 2017

**SB 184:** Revise workers compensation to allow termination of payments due to fraud.  
Hearing held March 20, 2017.

**SB 275:** Revise construction industry in workers' compensation premium credit  
program. Hearing scheduled for March 15, 2017.

**SB 298:** Revise workers compensation relating to religious individuals and entities.  
Hearing scheduled for March 22, 2017.

**SB 312:** Revise laws relating to prescription drug use. Hearing scheduled for March 21,  
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**Unintroduced bills**

**LC 2327:** Revise laws related to schedule II drugs. Monitor

**LC 0144:** Generally revise labor laws. Is in draft process and anticipate being published next week with a possible hearing on March 15, 2017. Eric Strauss provided a summary of Sections 2, 3, 4, 5, and 6. The “whereas’s” in the bill lay out the intent. Discussion involved elimination of a State agency, collective bargaining, and it was agreed it was too early for LMAC to take a position. Attorneys Jon Metropoulos and Scott Richner represent Victory Insurance Company on this bill. Scott requested they be able to provide a presentation to LMAC.

**V. Other Matters:** Eric advised there has been no return funding to Safety. Jason advised of the upcoming Governor’s Conference in West Yellowstone and LMAC will be on October 3, 2017.

**Public Comment**

No Public Comment

**Next Steps**