

Minutes
Labor-Management Advisory Council Telephone Conference
March 17, 2017

Advisory Council and Subcommittee members present:

Lance Zanto, Workers' Compensation Management Bureau, Chair
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
Jackie Lenmark, Private Insurance Companies

Advisory Council and Subcommittee members via telephone:

Bill Dahlgren, Sun Mountain Sports
Annette Hoffman, St. Vincent Hospital
Jim Larson, Teamsters Local 190, Co-chair
Doug Buman, Laborers' International Union of North America
Kevin Braun, Montana State Fund

Others Present:

Eric Strauss, Administrator ERD
Jason Swant, Project Manager
Mark Cadwallader, Legal Counsel Department of Labor and Industry

Members of the public:

Jon Metropoulos, Attorney
Jason Rittel, Victory Insurance Company
Lin Deola, Attorney, Morrison, Sherwood, Wilson and Deola

I. Welcome and roll call

- II. Approval of Minutes/Agenda.** The agenda and minutes from the 03/10/17 were approved.

III. Introduced bills monitored:

HB 346: Designate fiscal agent as employer for workers' compensation insurance. Transmitted to Governor.

HB 358: Revise workers' compensation laws pertaining to release of information. Second reading passed consideration March 17, 2017

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HB 449: Revise the definition of wages in workers' compensation insurance. Hearing held March 15, 2017.

SB 72: Create presumptive illness for firefighters. Tabled in Committee.

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. Transmitted to Governor.

SB 184: Revise workers compensation to allow termination of payments due to fraud. Committee Report – Bill Concurred.

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

SB 298: Revise workers compensation relating to religious individuals and entities. Scheduled for hearing March 22, 2017.

SB 312: Revise laws relating to prescription drug use. Hearing scheduled for March 21, 2017.

Unintroduced bills

LC 1263: Prohibit certain subrogation in workers' compensation. No movement.

LC 1264: Eliminate workers' compensation evidentiary presumption regarding physicians. No movement.

LC 0144: Revise workers' compensation insurance and dissolve the state fund. In Draft form. A handout was provided by representative for Victory Insurance, "Montana Workers' Compensation Modernization Act". Jacqueline Lenmark reviewed sections of the draft bill highlighting changes from the earlier draft and the bill contents. It is anticipated a bill number will be assigned and hearing held March 23rd or 24th 2017.

IV. No Other Matters or public comment.

V. Next Steps