

Minutes  
Labor-Management Advisory Council on  
Workers' Compensation  
Teleconference Meeting  
January 30, 2015

LMAC members present: Bob Worthington (Chair), Don Judge, Bill Dahlgren, Marv Jordan, Al Smith, Doug Buman, ,Annette Hoffman, Jim Larson, Chris Cavazos, and Kevin Braun

Core Team members present: Diana Ferriter, Mark Cadwallader, Bill Wheeler; Anne Wolfinger

About 25 members of the public attended, primarily by teleconference.

I. Status of Introduced bills

HB 17 (Require workers' compensation insurers to provide loss information) is not yet scheduled for hearing.

HB 90 (Revise workers compensation laws) which was referred to the Senate Natural Resources Committee. Chris Cavazos advised this will be changed and referred to the Business and Labor Committee.

HB 271 (Revise laws regarding physician dispensing of prescription medication) was scheduled for hearing January 30, 2015. Diana advised the Department is not appearing at this hearing but put it on the agenda if LMAC wants to discuss. The Montana Chamber and self-insureds organization may be against it due to the cost, AFL-CIO is not taking a stand and the Montana Trial Lawyers Association is supporting the bill. LMAC agreed to monitor it.

HB 299 (Revise workers' compensation claim penalty laws). The hearing was held January 30, 2015. Representative Chuck Hunter wants an average cost of all claims. NCCI provided the average cost of indemnity and medical on wage-loss claims only. This information was provided to Pat Murdo. The Department only collects data on wage loss claims. Kevin Braun stated the State Fund can provide their information.

SB 4 (Authorize temporary appointment in vacancy of the workers' compensation judge). The hearing will be held Wednesday February 4, 2015. LMAC will continue to monitor.

SB 103 (Provide presumptive disease coverage for paid firefighters). The hearing was cancelled by Senator Mary Caferro.

II. Status of Unintroduced bills

LC35 (Generally revise laws related to the Montana State Fund). LMAC will continue to monitor.

LC477 (Create OSHA laws applicable to private employers). LMAC will continue to support without amendments.

LC533 (Revising workers' compensation and occupational health and safety assessments). This is ready for the sponsor signature.

LC935 (Clarify loss-run insurance laws). This is currently "up in the air"

LC2354 (Revise workers' compensation laws relating to religious employer definition). Discussion involved agriculture as an exemption. LMAC will monitor.

LC1080 (Revise occupational health and safety standards). This is now HB362

### III. ERD Budget Hearing

Diana advised the Department budget hearings start Wednesday February 4, 2015. Public comment will be Friday February 6<sup>th</sup> at 11:00. A motion was made and seconded to have LMAC appear in support of the functions ERD performs relative to the overview of workers' compensation.

### IV. Next steps

The LMAC will meet next Friday February 6, 2015 (same meeting arrangements).