

Minutes
Labor-Management Advisory Council on
Workers' Compensation
Teleconference Meeting
February 06, 2015

LMAC members present: Lt. Governor Angela McLean, Bob Worthington, Don Judge, Bill Dahlgren, Lance Zanto, Marv Jordan, Al Smith, Doug Buman, Jim Larson, Kevin Braun, and Margaret Wallace for Jean Branscum

Core Team members present: Diana Ferriter, Mark Cadwallader, Bryan Page, Anne Wolfinger

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

I. Approval of minutes/agenda

A motion to approve the minutes from the January 23, 2015 meeting was made, seconded and approved after they were amended to state the LMAC was supporting, not monitoring SB 4.

II. Status of Bills Supported by LMAC

HB 90-Revise Workers' Compensation Laws will be heard in the Senate on February 12, 2015 at 8:00 a.m. Bob Worthington and Don Judge will attend.

SB 4-Authorize Temporary Appointment in Vacancy of Workers' Compensation Judge has passed committee but has not been heard on the floor yet.

SB 259-Revising Workers' Compensation and Occupational Health and Safety Assessments, will be heard February 10, 2015 at 8:00 a.m. A fact sheet has been provided Senator Tutvedt which he will use for testimony. Diana will provide a history, how the assessment works, and what it will be used for. Don Judge, Bob Worthington and Lt. Governor Angela McLean will attend.

HB 413-Create OSHA Laws Applicable to Private Employers has been introduced but not scheduled for hearing. Lt. Governor McLean met with Representative Chuck Hunter advising him LMAC would not support with any proposed amendments.

III. Status of Bills Monitored by LMAC

HB 17-Require Workers' Compensation Insurers to Provide Loss Information has been referred to committee in the House

HB 271-Revise Laws Regarding Physician Dispensing of Prescription Medication was heard January 30, 2015. An amendment was offered to exclude Schedule II and III drugs and leave in Schedule IV and I.

HB 299-Revise Workers' Compensation Claim Penalty Laws passed committee, had a third reading and will be transferred to the Senate

SB 103-Provide Presumptive Disease Coverage for Paid Firefighters. The hearing will be held February 11, 2015 at 8:00 a.m.

SB 123-Revise the Regulatory Authority over the Montana State Fund. The bill was passed as amended transferring regulatory authority to the Auditor's Office. It should be heard on the Floor February 10, 2014. The amendment was to include two FTE's under the Auditor's Office. One for an auditor and one for an attorney.

SB 254-Generally Revise Laws Related to the Montana State Fund has been referred to the Business and Labor Committee.

SB 258-Revise Workers' Compensation Laws Relating to Religious Employer Definition has not been scheduled for hearing.

IV. New Bills

HB 362-Revise Occupational Health and Safety Standards. The hearing will be held February 9, 2015 at 3:00 p.m. Diana will attend as an informational witness.

LC 0747-Create a Drug Formulary for Workers' Compensation. It was agreed to defer until it becomes a bill and then monitor.

V. Next steps

The LMAC will meet next Friday, February 13, 2015