

HB 321 -- Workers' Compensation

Co-Sponsors: Wilson (130), Cunningham, Hanaway, Hunter, Avery, Wood, Dixon, Ruestman, Jetton, Sander, Guest, Bearden, Yates, Crowell, Rector, St. Onge, Goodman, Johnson (47), Schlottach, Dusenberg, Marsh, Schaaf, Dethrow

This bill makes changes to the workers' compensation law. The bill:

- (1) Restricts the definition of "accident" to a specific, identifiable, traumatic event that produced objective symptoms of an injury at that time;
- (2) Requires that an injury or occupational disease be compensable only if an accident or occupational exposure was the dominant factor in causing the condition or disability. Current law requires only that an injury or exposure be a substantial factor;
- (3) Restricts benefits for the aggravation of pre-existing conditions to those cases where a work-related injury causes increased permanent disability and reduces compensation by the amount of permanent partial disability that was pre-existing; and
- (4) Allows employers to sue employees to whom they have paid benefits for worker compensation payments made by the employer.