

FIRST REGULAR SESSION

HOUSE BILL NO. 541

99TH GENERAL ASSEMBLY

INTRODUCED BY REPRESENTATIVE MAY.

1060H.021

D. ADAM CRUMBLISS, Chief Clerk

AN ACT

To amend chapter 21, RSMo, by adding thereto one new section relating to the joint committee on Missouri division of workers' compensation.

Be it enacted by the General Assembly of the state of Missouri, as follows:

Section A. Chapter 21, RSMo, is amended by adding thereto one new section, to be known as section 21.815, to read as follows:

21.815. 1. There is hereby established a "Joint Committee on Missouri Division of Workers' Compensation" to be composed of seven members of the house of representatives appointed by the speaker of the house of representatives and the minority floor leader and seven members of the senate appointed by the president pro tempore of the senate and the minority floor leader. The appointment of each member shall continue during the member's term of office or until a successor has been appointed to fill the member's place when his or her term of office as a member of the general assembly has expired. No party shall be represented by more than four members from the house of representatives or more than four members from the senate. A majority of the joint committee shall constitute a quorum, but the concurrence of a majority of the members shall be required for the determination of any matter within the joint committee's duties.

2. The joint committee shall:

(1) Investigate disparity directed at injured minorities, low-income workers, and workers under thirty-five years of age;

(2) Continuously study and analyze the division of workers' compensation's investigations of bias, fraud, and noncompliance;

EXPLANATION — Matter enclosed in bold-faced brackets [thus] in the above bill is not enacted and is intended to be omitted from the law. Matter in **bold-face** type in the above bill is proposed language.

- 17 (3) Address the need for additional resources to improve the quality of fairness
18 provided to injured minorities while processing claims in this state;
- 19 (4) Review claims that prove to be fraudulent or noncompliant and ensure redress
20 is provided for such claims;
- 21 (5) Devise a plan for improving the structured decision-making for compromise
22 settlements;
- 23 (6) Determine the additional personnel and resources needed to adequately protect
24 injured minorities, low-income workers, and workers under the age of thirty-five and
25 improve their welfare and the welfare of their families;
- 26 (7) Determine from the study and the analysis, the need for changes in the statutory
27 laws;
- 28 (8) Investigate the operations, effects, and administration of the Missouri division
29 of workers' compensation;
- 30 (9) Investigate measures and methods for elimination of bias within the program;
- 31 (10) Request the presence of the director of the division of workers' compensation
32 to answer questions from the study;
- 33 (11) Make every effort to meet in at least three urban regions of the state to seek
34 public input and examine trends in the state for injured workers in those regions and their
35 needs, existing services and resources, and needed state policies;
- 36 (12) Make any recommendation to the general assembly necessary to provide
37 adequate protection for injured minorities, low-income workers, and workers under the
38 age of thirty-five in this state regarding due process and equal protection rights;
- 39 (13) Meet within thirty days after its creation, select a chairperson and a vice
40 chairperson, and meet quarterly thereafter; and
- 41 (14) Compile a full report of its activities for submission to the general assembly by
42 January thirtieth of each year the general assembly convenes in a regular session.
- 43 3. The provisions of this section shall expire on January 30, 2023.

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