

HCS SB 303 -- WORKERS COMPENSATION

SPONSOR: Gannon (Henderson)

COMMITTEE ACTION: Voted "Do Pass with HCS" by the Standing Committee on Workforce Development by a vote of 10 to 0. Voted "Do Pass" by the Standing Committee on Rules- Legislative Oversight by a vote of 11 to 0.

The following is a summary of the House Committee Substitute for SB 303.

This bill allows for electronic payments of certain benefits such as temporary total or temporary partial disability payments.

The Division of Workers' Compensation within the Department of Labor may give priority to and pay from the Second Injury Fund, all death benefits related to claims before January 1, 2014 and ongoing medical expenses occurring before January 1, 2014. If a group of employers who have been granted self-insurance authority under Chapter 537, RSMO or a public sector individual employer granted self-insurance authority under Chapter 537, files for bankruptcy, and fails to pay any of its obligations that are owed to an injured employee or an injured employee's dependent or dependents, the Division shall call upon the entire security posted by the group of employers or public sector individual employer. The Division may refer all known losses or cases of the group of employers or public sector individual employer to a third-party administrator or any such entity authorized in this state to administer the Workers' Compensation cases. Any unused portion of the security proceeds must be returned to the Division.

The bill also states that an employee is not to be released from liability if the employee engaged in a willful act with the intent to cause bodily injury or death. Currently, employees are immune for damages involving bodily injury or death unless they commit an affirmative negligent act that causes or increases the risk of injury.

The following is a summary of the public testimony from the committee hearing. The testimony was based on the introduced version of the bill.

PROPONENTS: Supporters say that the bill will allow for quicker and more secure payments of benefits. This bill has broad support.

Testifying for the bill were Senator Gannon; Arnie C. Dienoff; and the Missouri Insurance Coalition.

OPPONENTS: There was no opposition voiced to the committee.

This bill is similar to SB 303, HB 1119(2021) and HB 163 (2020).

Written testimony has been submitted for this bill. The full written testimony can be found under Testimony on the bill page on the House website.