

HOUSE RESEARCH

Bill Summary

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Section

- 1 **Disciplinary actions.** Gives the commissioner the discretion over whether to investigate a complaint filed against a qualified rehabilitation consultant (QRC) or rehabilitation vendor.
- 2 **Scope.** Under current law, the department has the authority to hold administrative conferences and issue decisions involving medical requests where the amount involved is \$7,500 or less. New language removes the cap when the medical issue being disputed is whether the provider's charge for a service or product is excessive.
- 3 **Employer reports.** Clarifies that an insolvent insurer is not entitled to reimbursement of supplementary or second injury benefits from the special compensation fund.
- 4 **Medical data; access.** Clarifies that the medical data filed with the department in connection with a claim for workers' compensation benefits is not subject to the general prohibitions on state agencies from collecting, storing, or sharing data about individuals that contains genetic information.
- 5 **Notice by commissioner; rights of parties.** Requires the special compensation fund to provide notice to employers of a proposed settlement together with a copy of the settlement agreement. The notice must state that if the employer does not object to the settlement within 15 days, it will be deemed to have waived any defenses it may have to a subsequent claim for reimbursement by the fund.
- 6 **Receipts for payment of compensation, filing.** Allows the commissioner to use any type of sampling methodology to perform the evaluation of whether insurers and employers are providing the department evidence of payment of compensation. Current law requires the commissioner to use Six Sigma methodology.

Section

7 **Settlement of claims.** Provides that if a workers' compensation case is settled at the time it is pending before the workers' compensation court of appeals, the proposed settlement must be approved by an administrative law judge (rather than the WCCA).