

HOUSE RESEARCH

Bill Summary

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Overview

All provisions in this bill were approved by the Workers' Compensation Advisory Council. Article 1 makes changes to the Workers' Compensation Court of Appeals, and Article 2 makes WC "housekeeping" changes.

Article 1: Workers' Compensation Court of Appeals Proposals

Section

- 1 **Limitation of fees.** Clarifies the process for attorneys claiming legal fees in workers' compensation cases.
- 2 **Review.** Clarifies the procedure in the Workers' Compensation Court of Appeals for attorneys appealing their fee awards.
- 3 **Service of writ and bond; filing fee.** Eliminates the requirement of paying a bond for parties appealing a decision of Workers' Compensation Court of Appeals to the Minnesota Supreme Court. Makes changes to conform to appellate court rules.
- 4 **Bond.** Deletes language related to the bonds at issue in Section 3. Provides that the Workers' Compensation Court of Appeals may require a bond in extraordinary circumstances.
- 5 **Disbursements; taxation.** Extends the time limit, from five to ten days, for seeking costs from the losing party in a workers' compensation case. Current law provides that the prevailing party in such a case is entitled to costs incurred during the litigation.

Section

- 6** **Attorney fee, allowance.** Makes stylistic changes and conforming changes based on other provisions in the bill.
- 7** **Effective date:** Sets effective date for sections 1 to 6 as day of final enactment.

Article 2: Workers' Compensation Department Proposals

- 1** **Electronic transactions.** Extends the deadline for compliance to January 1, 2017, the requirement that health care providers and insurers submit and receive certain medical records and reports along with a medical bill. Lack of a consistent standard for attaching the documents has caused problems with submitting such documents to insurers. In addition to extending the time limit for compliance by six months, the bill provides more specificity about the attachment standard to be followed.
- 2** **Preliminary investigations.** Replaces “management and budget” with “administration” to accurately reflect the state agency workers’ compensation claims of injured state employees.
- 3** **Effective date.** Sets effective date for sections 1 and 2 as day of final enactment.