Sixtieth Legislative Assembly of North Dakota
In Regular Session Commencing Wednesday, January 3, 2007

HOUSE BILL NO. 1156
(Representatives Keiser, N. Johnson, Porter)
(Senators Klein, Stenehjem)

AN ACT to amend and reenact section 54-35-22 of the North Dakota Century Code, relating to the expiration of the workers' compensation review committee.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF NORTH DAKOTA:

SECTION 1. AMENDMENT. Section 54-35-22 of the North Dakota Century Code is amended and reenacted as follows:

54-35-22. (Effective through July 31, 2007) Workers' compensation review committee.

1. During each interim, a legislative council interim workers' compensation review committee must be appointed as follows: two members of the senate appointed by the majority leader of the senate of the legislative assembly; one member of the senate appointed by the minority leader of the senate of the legislative assembly; two members of the house of representatives appointed by the majority leader of the house of representatives; and one member of the house of representatives appointed by the minority leader of the house of representatives. The chairman of the legislative council shall designate the chairman of the committee. The committee shall operate according to the laws and procedures governing the operation of other legislative council interim committees. The committee may recommend legislation relating to workers' compensation. The committee shall meet once each calendar quarter or less often if the committee chairman determines a meeting that quarter is not necessary because there are no claims to review.

2. The committee shall review workers' compensation claims that are brought to the committee by injured workers for the purpose of determining whether changes should be made to the laws relating to workers' compensation. A claim may not be reviewed by the committee unless ~~the organization~~ workforce safety and insurance has issued a final determination and either the injured worker has exhausted the administrative and judicial appeals process or the period for appeal has expired. In order for the committee to review a claim, the injured worker must first sign a release of information for constituent authorization to allow the committee and legislative council staff to review the injured worker's workforce safety and insurance records and to allow the committee members and workforce safety and insurance representatives to discuss the records in an interim committee hearing. Notwithstanding any open meeting requirements, except as otherwise provided under this section, the workforce safety and insurance records of an injured worker whose case is reviewed by the committee are confidential. However, pursuant to the constituent's authorization, information contained in the records may be discussed by the committee members and workforce safety and insurance representatives in an interim committee hearing.

3. The committee shall accept testimony of an injured worker and of a representative designated by the injured worker. After the committee has received the testimony of the injured worker and the injured worker's representative, the committee shall request that ~~the organization~~ workforce safety and insurance provide testimony.

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Speaker of the House

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President of the Senate

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Chief Clerk of the House

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Secretary of the Senate

This certifies that the within bill originated in the House of Representatives of the Sixtieth Legislative Assembly of North Dakota and is known on the records of that body as House Bill No. 1156.

House Vote: Yeas   89   Nays   0   Absent   5

Senate Vote: Yeas   47   Nays   0   Absent   0

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Chief Clerk of the House

Received by the Governor at _____ M. on _____, 2007.

Approved at _____ M. on _____, 2007.

_____
Governor

Filed in this office this _____ day of _____, 2007,

at _____ o'clock _____ M.

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Secretary of State