

REVENUE: No revenue impact

FISCAL: No fiscal impact

Action: Do Pass with Amendments to the A-Engrossed Measure. (Printed B-Engrossed)

Vote: 5 - 0 - 1

Yeas: Atkinson, Burdick, Edwards, Starr, Beyer

Nays: 0

Exc.: Girod

Prepared By: Richard Berger, Administrator

Meeting Dates: 4/28

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES: Modifies the manner in which a notice of compliance is made available to subject employers under the workers' compensation system. Eliminates requirement for consultation with certain professional licensing boards when rules are adopted concerning the appropriateness of certain types of medical treatment. Restores the authority of the Department of Consumer and Business Services to extend temporary disability compensation paid to workers in vocational training. Allows licensed nurse practitioners who are not members of a managed care organization to provide compensable medical services for 180 days instead of 90 days from the first visit.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Provide more flexibility to employers for notice of compliance
- Nurse practitioners more affordable than medical doctors
- Limited access to medical doctors in certain rural areas

EFFECT OF COMMITTEE AMENDMENT: Allows licensed nurse practitioners who are not members of a managed care organization to provide compensable medical services for 180 days instead of 90 days from the first visit.

BACKGROUND: The Department of Consumer and Business Services (DCBS) regularly evaluates its laws and processes for determining how to streamline and improve outcomes for both workers and employers. House Bill 2092 B makes a number of changes to workers' compensation law for purposes of reducing burden on employers, protecting workers, and the simplification of regulations.

The measure removes the current statutory requirement to provide a printed compliance notice to all employers and gives DCBS the means to work with stakeholders in developing more flexible and efficient ways of providing the required notice, such as in downloadable document form. House Bill 2092 B also corrects an inadvertent deletion of the Department's ability to take action when a worker appeals a workers' compensation insurer's decision regarding the duration of wage benefit benefits provided during the worker's vocational assistance training program, as well as removing the statutory requirement that the Department specifically consult a health licensing board in determining whether a medical treatment is unscientific, unproven, outmoded, or experimental.