

REVENUE: No revenue impact

FISCAL: No fiscal impact

Action:	Do Pass
Vote:	9 - 0 - 1
Yeas:	Barton, Fagan, Holvey, Kennemer, Matthews, Thatcher, Weidner, Witt, Doherty
Nays:	0
Exc.:	Thompson
Prepared By:	Jan Nordlund, Administrator
Meeting Dates:	5/1

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES: Allows Workers' Compensation Board to adopt rules providing for electronic transmission of filings, reports, notices and other documents.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Benefits of cost savings and more timely communications

EFFECT OF COMMITTEE AMENDMENT: No amendment.

BACKGROUND: The Workers' Compensation Board is charged with providing timely and impartial resolution of disputes related to workers' compensation and safety laws. Board members promulgate administrative rules required for the performance of their duties, including rules of practice and procedure related to hearings and Board review proceedings. Historically, the Board's operations and communications have been issued in paper form; however, stakeholders and other state agencies have increased expectations of electronic communication. Statute currently requires mailing of filings, notices and other documents; original signatures on documents are also required under current law.

House Bill 2321 (2011) authorized public bodies to send notices electronically that are statutorily required to be sent by regular mail if the recipient of the correspondence agrees and if the electronic notices in question are not otherwise prohibited by law. Senate Bill 190-A authorizes the Workers' Compensation Board to adopt new rules and to revise existing rules related to the electronic transmission of filings, notices and other documents under the Board's authority.