

Workers' Compensation
Management-Labor Advisory Committee



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April 9, 2015

Rep. Paul Holvey, Chair
House Business and Labor Committee

Re: HB 2764

Dear Chair Holvey:

As you know, the Management-Labor Advisory Committee (MLAC) has been reviewing this bill along with several other large pieces of legislation. In mid-February, the various groups proposing HB 2764 (attorney fees) and SB 649 (compensability of workers' compensation claims) started a process to identify areas of compromise. The parties met a number of times and we believe they acted in good faith to seek common ground.

At the April 3 MLAC meeting, the parties told us they had not yet reached an agreement, so we asked them to make one more attempt. If they could not provide that by April 7, the co-chairs of MLAC agreed to take up the work to craft a recommendation to the legislature. The parties did not meet the deadline, but their negotiations resulted in an excellent starting point for us to begin identifying a set of amendments that MLAC can support.

Our discussions have been very productive, but we are unable to provide you final amendment language or a full MLAC vote in time to advise your work session today. We understand you face deadlines to act on bills and we do not wish to impact forward movement on this legislation. To that end, we commit to providing an MLAC recommendation and suggested amendments in time for the first hearings on the bill in the Senate.

Sincerely,

Guy Boileau
Management Co-Chair

John Mohlis
Labor Co-Chair