



# Oregon

Kate Brown, Governor

Department of Consumer and Business Services

MLAC | Management-Labor Advisory Committee

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February 9, 2022

Rep. Paul Holvey  
Chair  
House Business and Labor Committee

Dear Rep. Holvey:

The Workers' Compensation Management-Labor Advisory Committee (MLAC) has completed review of HB 4113.

The committee supports the bill with the -2 amendment. The amendment requires MLAC to review and consider reports, findings and analysis made public by the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health that are related to cancers associated with nonvolunteer firefighters as set forth in ORS 656.802 (5)..

The committee also received a commitment from the bill proponents not to request more cancers be added to the firefighter presumption until MLAC's review of the above information is complete.

For your committee's information, we have attached a one-page information sheet about MLAC and our process.

Sincerely,

Patrick Priest  
Management Co-chair

Scott Strickland  
Labor Co-chair

## Members

Tammy Bowers  
May Trucking Company

Matthew Calzia  
Oregon Nurses Association

Sara Duckwall  
Duckwall Fruit

Jill Fullerton  
Clackamas Co. Fire District #1

Marcy Grail  
IBEW Local 125

Lynn McNamara  
Paladin Consulting

John McKenzie  
JE Dunn Construction

Patrick Priest  
Citycounty Insurance Services  
*Management co-chair*

Scott Strickland  
IUOE Local 701  
*Labor co-chair*

Margaret Weddell  
Labor representative

Andrew Stolfi  
Director, Oregon Department of  
Consumer & Business Services,  
*Ex-Officio*

## Committee administration

Theresa Van Winkle  
Committee Administrator



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The Workers' Compensation Management Labor Advisory Committee (MLAC) was originally established in the early 1990s to develop strategies for making workers' compensation costs affordable to employers and fair and improved benefits for workers. These recommendations also included formal establishment of this committee in statute. Since its inception, MLAC provides an effective forum for business and labor to meet to explore, discuss, and resolve issues involving the workers' compensation system, based on a common set of values:

- **Balance and Fairness** – A system designed to deal even-handedly with all parties, is administered fairly and meets the needs of both workers and employers.
- **Adequacy** – A system in which benefits are commensurate with the severity of the injury or illness and sufficient to protect the financial integrity of the worker's family.
- **Affordability** – A system which provides quality care in a cost-effective manner and contributes to a healthy business climate.
- **Efficiency** – A system which is user friendly, streamlined, and maintains high standards.
- **Stability and Flexibility** – A system stable enough to encourage consistency and efficiency, yet flexible enough to change when necessary.
- **Predictability** – A system in which benefits, costs, and consequences are known and can be planned for.

MLAC is a vehicle for reaching consensus, and minimizes the danger of making major structural changes from one legislative session to the next. The forum supports the long-term stability of Oregon's workers' compensation system that has led to lower premiums for employers and adequate benefits to employees.

MLAC is composed of five representatives each from business and labor, appointed by the Governor and confirmed by the Senate, with the director of the Department of Consumer and Business Services (DCBS) serving as an ex-officio member. The committee is charged by statute to provide accountability to the workers' compensation system, such as:

- Receiving annual financial reports from DCBS about the programs funded by the Workers' Benefit Fund;
- Biennially reviewing the standards for evaluating permanent disability and permanent partial disability benefits;
- Advising DCBS about any proposed changes in the operation of programs funded by the Workers' Benefit Fund; and
- Reporting to the Legislature on workers' compensation issues as considered appropriate.

Reports to the Legislature are conducted via the review and advisory recommendations of proposed legislation or formal reports as required by law. MLAC is also charged with studying workers' compensation statutes or other issues at the request of the DCBS director or by the committee itself. Between legislative sessions, MLAC is often asked to focus on complex areas of the law that merit longer discussions than a typical legislative session allows.

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