

MINUTES OF THE House COMMITTEE ON Labor and Industry

The meeting was called to order by Representative Anthony Hensley
Chairperson

9:10 a.m./~~p.m.~~ on January 30, 1991 in room 526-S of the Capito

All members were present except:

Representative Cribbs - excused
Representative Douville - excused
Representative Webb - excused

Committee staff present:

Jim Wilson, Revisor
Jerry Donaldson, Research
Barbara Dudney, Committee Secretary

Conferees appearing before the committee:

Robert Anderson, Director, Kansas Division of Worker's Compensation
William Morrissey, Assistant Director

The meeting was called to order at 9:10 a.m. by the chairman, Rep. Anthony Hensley.

Chairman Hensley entertained a motion to approve the minutes of the January 23rd and January 24th meetings. Rep. Sam Roper moved, seconded by Rep. Dick Edlund, that the minutes of the January 23rd and 24th meetings be approved. Motion carried.

The chairman announced that the committee would now return to that order of business on the agenda of motions for introduction of committee bills. He recognized members of the committee for said motions.

Rep. Diane Gjerstad moved to introduce a bill substantially similar to 1989 House Bill No. 2211, a bill providing for unpaid leaves for absences from employment for certain employees for births, adoptions and family illnesses. Rep. Roper seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Rep. Denise Everhart moved to introduce a bill amending K.S.A. 44-510 (g), providing for unauthorized vocational evaluations not to exceed \$500. Rep. Don Smith seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Rep. George Gomez moved to introduce a bill substantially similar to a House floor amendment added to 1990 Substitute House Bill No. 3069 which amended K.S.A. 44-510 (g), providing for employee choice, in the first instance, of health care provider in worker compensation cases. Rep. Herman Dillon seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Chairman Hensley stated that the purpose of the meeting was to hear and overview of the Kansas workers' compensation act and the operations of the Kansas Division of Workers' Compensation. He introduced Robert Anderson, Director, Kansas Division of Workers' Compensation.

Mr. Anderson began his presentation by introducing members of his staff: William Morrissey, assistant director, and Dick Thomas, field service administrator for vocational rehabilitation.

Mr. Anderson provided the committee with several documents pertaining to the Kansas workers' compensation system: "Workers Compensation Employers' Handbook and Resource Data", 16th Annual Statistical Report of the Division of Workers Compensation, the July, 1990 issue of "News and Views from Workers Compensation", statistical data concerning vocational rehabilitation services in Kansas, and a booklet containing the Kansas workers compensation law and rules as of July 1, 1990. A copy of this material may be obtained thru the Kansas Division of Workman's Compensation.

CONTINUATION SHEET

MINUTES OF THE House COMMITTEE ON Labor and Industry,
room 526-S, Statehouse, at 9:10 a.m./~~p.m.~~ on January 30, 1991

Mr. Anderson explained that there are five sections in the division: administrative, judicial, claims advisory, rehabilitation, and medical utilization review. He went on to describe the functions of each section in detail. He stated that the division had received approximately 82,000 accident reports last year, which is 20-25% less per capita than the national average. He described the step-by-step procedures by which a claim is processed. He explained that several positions in the utilization review section had not yet been filled because the section was new and in its early stages.

Mr. Anderson introduced Mr. Morrissey who explained the services provided by the claims advisory and rehabilitation sections of the division.

Mr. Anderson, Mr. Morrissey and Mr. Thomas answered questions from several members of the committee.

Chairman Hensley reminded committee members that tomorrow, January 31, 1991, the committee would be touring the administrative offices of the Kansas Department of Human Resources, and that committee members were to meet at the south entrance of the Statehouse.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:55a.m.

