

Testimony before House Commerce, Labor & Economic Development
Senate Bill 73- Work Comp
Presented by Eric Stafford, Senior Director of Government Affairs



Wednesday, March 13, 2013

Mister chairman and members of the committee:

On behalf of the Kansas Chamber of Commerce, I would like to thank you for the opportunity to speak in support of Senate Bill 73 which makes mostly technical changes to the workers compensation statutes.

The Kansas Legislature passed House Bill 2134 in 2011, the first comprehensive work comp reform in almost 20 years. While that legislation was broad, this year's legislation looks to clean up statutes that were either overlooked, or could use further clarification.

SB 73 updates the American Medical Association (AMA) guides from the outdated fourth edition to the current sixth edition starting in 2015. While health and treatments have changed dramatically in the last 20 years, Kansas guidelines have not. Currently, the Fourth Edition of the AMA Guidelines is used.

SB 73 also deletes an outdated reference to a written 200 day notice from the employer which is no longer required. This language should have been deleted during the 2011 work comp reform.

Finally, the Senate added an amendment modifying the timeframe for notice requirements for injured workers to notify employers of an accident, after the employee's last day of work from 20 to 10 days. This change only applies to an employee who no longer works for the employer.

In closing, these changes simply clean up statute and add clarity to provisions of the law which were negotiated in 2011. We would ask for your support of Senate Bill 73.



The Kansas Chamber, with headquarters in Topeka, is the leading statewide pro-business advocacy group moving Kansas towards becoming the best state in America to do business. The Chamber represents small, medium and large employers all across Kansas.