

FIRST REGULAR SESSION

HOUSE BILL NO. 552

98TH GENERAL ASSEMBLY

INTRODUCED BY REPRESENTATIVE WALTON GRAY.

0469L.021

D. ADAM CRUMBLISS, Chief Clerk

AN ACT

To amend chapter 21, RSMo, by adding thereto one new section relating to the joint committee on Missouri division of workers' compensation.

Be it enacted by the General Assembly of the state of Missouri, as follows:

Section A. Chapter 21, RSMo, is amended by adding thereto one new section, to be
2 known as section 21.816, to read as follows:

**21.816. 1. There is hereby established a joint committee of the general assembly to
2 be known as the "Joint Committee on Missouri Division of Workers' Compensation" to
3 be comprised of seven members of the house of representatives appointed by the speaker
4 of the house of representatives and minority floor leader and seven members of the senate
5 appointed by the president pro tem of the senate and the minority floor leader. The
6 appointment of each member shall continue during the member's term of office or until a
7 successor has been appointed to fill the member's place when his or her term of office as
8 a member of the general assembly has expired. No party shall be represented by more than
9 four members from the house of representatives or more than four members from the
10 senate. A majority of the joint committee shall constitute a quorum, but the concurrence
11 of a majority of the members shall be required for the determination of any matter within
12 the joint committee's duties.**

13 **2. The joint committee shall:**

14 **(1) Investigate disparity directed at injured minorities, low-income workers, and
15 workers under thirty-five years of age;**

16 **(2) Make a continuing study and analysis of the division of workers' compensation
17 bias, fraud, and noncompliance, investigation system, and regulatory agency;**

EXPLANATION — Matter enclosed in bold-faced brackets [thus] in the above bill is not enacted and is intended to be omitted from the law. Matter in **bold-face** type in the above bill is proposed language.

- 18 **(3) Address the need for additional resources to improve the quality of fairness**
19 **provided to injured minorities while processing claims in this state;**
- 20 **(4) Review and redress for claims that prove to be fraudulent and/or noncompliant;**
- 21 **(5) Devise a plan for improving the structured decision- making process for**
22 **compromise settlements;**
- 23 **(6) Study the feasibility of obtaining an evaluation from a workers' compensation**
24 **claimant once his or her case is closed;**
- 25 **(7) Determine the additional personnel and resources needed to adequately protect**
26 **injured minorities, low-income workers, and workers under the age of thirty-five and**
27 **improve their welfare and the welfare of their families;**
- 28 **(8) Determine from the study and the analysis the need for changes in the statutory**
29 **laws;**
- 30 **(9) Investigate the operations, effects, and administration of the Missouri division**
31 **of workers' compensation;**
- 32 **(10) Investigate measures and methods for elimination of bias within the program;**
- 33 **(11) Request the presence of the director of the division of workers' compensation**
34 **to answer questions from the study;**
- 35 **(12) Make every effort to meet in at least three urban regions of the state to seek**
36 **public input and examine trends in the state for injured workers in those regions and their**
37 **needs, existing services and resources, and needed state policies;**
- 38 **(13) Make any recommendation to the general assembly necessary to provide**
39 **adequate protection for injured minorities, low-income workers, and workers under the**
40 **age of thirty-five in this state regarding due process and equal protection rights;**
- 41 **(14) Meet within thirty days after its creation and select a chairperson and a vice**
42 **chairperson, and meet quarterly thereafter; and**
- 43 **(15) Compile a full report of its activities for submission to the general assembly by**
44 **January thirtieth of each year the general assembly convenes in a regular session.**
- 45 **3. As used in this section, "minorities" mean individuals of African, Hispanic,**
46 **Native American, or Asian decent.**
- 47 **4. The provisions of this section shall expire on January 30, 2021.**

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