

SENATE BILL 200

By Norris

AN ACT to amend Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 4, Chapter 3, Part 14; Title 9, Chapter 8, Part 3; Title 9, Chapter 8, Part 4; Title 29, Chapter 20, Part 4; Title 50, Chapter 6, Part 1; Title 50, Chapter 6, Part 2 and Title 50, Chapter 6, Part 3, relative to the improvement of workers' compensation system.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE:

SECTION 1. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 4-3-1408(b)(1)(B), is amended by deleting the sentence "The administrator shall have a minimum of five (5) years' credible experience in the field of workers' compensation." and replacing it, instead, with the following "The administrator shall have a minimum of seven (7) years' credible experience in the field of workers' compensation."

SECTION 2. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 9-8-307(a)(1)(K)(iv), is amended by deleting from the first sentence the phrase "or by the commissioner of labor and workforce development or the commissioner's designee" and replacing it, instead, with the following "or by a workers' compensation specialist".

SECTION 3. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 9-8-402(d)(4), is amended by deleting the subdivision in its entirety and substituting instead the following language:

(4) In the event an agreement cannot be reached at the benefit review conference as to all issues related to the claim, the claimant shall have seventy-five (75) days, after exhaustion of the benefit review conference process as provided in § 50-6-239, to file a claim with the claims commission. A claim for workers' compensation benefits must be instituted in the claims commission within that seventy-five (75) days.

SECTION 4. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 29-20-401(f)(2), is amended by deleting the words “thirty (30) days” and replacing them with the words “forty-five (45) days”.

SECTION 5. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 50-6-102(10)(B), is amended by deleting the words “thirty (30) days” and replacing them with the words “forty-five (45) days”.

SECTION 6. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 50-6-204(a)(3), is amended by deleting the subdivision in its entirety and renumbering the remaining subdivisions accordingly.

SECTION 7. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 50-6-305(a), is amended by deleting the words “thirty (30) days” and replacing them with the words “forty-five (45) days”.

SECTION 8. This act shall take effect upon becoming a law, the public welfare requiring it.