

**Fifty-eighth Legislative Assembly of North Dakota
In Regular Session Commencing Tuesday, January 7, 2003**

HOUSE BILL NO. 1150
(Representative M. Klein)
(Senator J. Klein)
(At the request of the Workers Compensation Bureau)

AN ACT to amend and reenact sections 65-02-03.1, 65-02-30, and 65-03-04 of the North Dakota Century Code, relating to the term of office of members and membership of the workers compensation bureau board of directors and biennial performance evaluations of the functions and operations of the workers compensation bureau; and to provide for application.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF NORTH DAKOTA:

SECTION 1. AMENDMENT. Section 65-02-03.1 of the North Dakota Century Code is amended and reenacted as follows:

65-02-03.1. Workers compensation board of directors - Appointment.

1. ~~Beginning September 1, 1997, the initial board of directors shall consist of the members on the state advisory council on December 15, 1996. The initial board shall submit to the governor a list of three names of potential candidates for each of the employer member positions and the medical association position. From each list the governor shall select an individual to fill the member position of the subsequent board. An organization that is statewide in scope and which through its affiliates embraces a cross section and a majority of organized labor in this state shall submit to the governor a list of three names of potential candidates for one of the three employee positions. The governor shall select an individual to fill this organized labor employee member position, and the governor shall appoint two individuals to fill the remaining two employee positions. The subsequent board is effective January 1, 1998.~~
2. ~~After December 31, 1997 the effective date of this Act, the board consists of ten~~ eleven members. The appointment and replacement of the members must ensure that:
 - a. Six board members represent employers in this state that maintain active accounts with the bureau, at least one of which must be a participant in the risk management program, at least two of which must be employers with annual premiums greater than twenty-five thousand dollars, at least one of which must be an employer with an annual premium of ten thousand dollars but less than twenty-five thousand dollars, and at least one of which must be an employer with an annual premium of less than ten thousand dollars.
 - b. Three members represent employees; at least one member must have received workers' compensation benefits; and at least one member must represent organized labor.
 - c. One ~~nonvoting~~ member is a member of the North Dakota medical association.
 - d. One member is a member at large who must be a resident of this state and at least twenty-one years of age.
3. ~~2. Board members shall serve six-year~~ four-year terms, except of the initial board members, ~~an employee representative and two employer representatives shall serve only through December 31, 1998; an employee representative and two employer representatives shall serve only through December 31, 2000; and an employee representative, two employer~~

~~representatives, and the medical association representative shall serve only through December 31, 2002, as determined by lot to initiate a cycle that results in three members' terms expiring on December thirty-first of each even-numbered year, and beginning the initial term of office of the member at large to be appointed upon the effective date of this Act expires on December 31, 2006, and the term of office of the medical association member whose term of office became effective January 1, 2003, expires on December 31, 2006. The governor shall make the necessary appointments to ensure the term of office of members begins on January first of each odd-numbered year. Board members may not serve more than ~~two~~ three consecutive terms. A departing member representing an employer must be replaced by a member representing an employer, most of whose employees are in a different rate classification than those of the employer represented by the departing member. The governor shall appoint the replacement member for a departing employer representative or medical association representative from a list of three candidates submitted by the board. The governor shall select the replacement member for the departing organized labor employee representative from a list of three names of potential candidates submitted by an organization that is statewide in scope and which through its affiliates embraces a cross section and a majority of organized labor in this state, and the. The governor shall select the replacement member for a departing nonorganized labor employee representative. The governor shall appoint the replacement member for the member at large from a list of three candidates submitted by the board. Vacancies in the membership of the board must be filled for the unexpired term by appointment by the governor as provided in this subsection.~~

SECTION 2. AMENDMENT. Section 65-02-30 of the North Dakota Century Code is amended and reenacted as follows:

65-02-30. Independent performance evaluation - Bureau development of performance measurements - Continuing appropriation. Biennially, the director shall request the state auditor to select a firm with extensive expertise in workers' compensation practices and standards to complete a performance evaluation of the functions and operations of the bureau during that biennium. This may not be construed to require the firm to be a certified public accounting firm. ~~The As determined necessary by the state auditor, but at least once every other biennium, the biennial independent performance evaluation must evaluate the departments of the bureau to determine whether the bureau is providing quality service in an efficient and cost-effective manner. The firm also shall conduct a performance evaluation of;~~ evaluate the effectiveness of safety and loss prevention programs under section 65-03-04; and evaluate the board to determine whether the board is operating within section 65-02-03.3 and within the board's bylaws. The firm's report must contain recommendations for departmental improvement or an explanation of why no recommendations are being made. The director, the chairman of the board, and a representative of the firm shall present the evaluation report and any action taken to the legislative council's legislative audit and fiscal review committee and to the house and senate industry, business and labor standing committees during the next regular session of the legislative session following the performance evaluation. The director shall provide a copy of the performance evaluation report to the state auditor. The bureau shall develop and maintain comprehensive, objective performance measurements. These measurements must be evaluated as part of the independent performance evaluation performed under this section. Money in the workers' compensation fund is appropriated on a continuing basis for the payment of the expense of conducting the performance evaluation.

SECTION 3. AMENDMENT. Section 65-03-04 of the North Dakota Century Code is amended and reenacted as follows:

65-03-04. Safety programs. The bureau shall create and operate work safety and loss prevention programs to protect the health of covered employees and the financial integrity of the fund, including programs promoting safety practices by employers and employees through education, training, consultation, grants, or incentives. ~~The biennial independent performance evaluation of the bureau must evaluate and report on the effectiveness of these programs.~~

SECTION 4. APPLICATION OF ACT. The reduction in the term of office from six years to four years in section 2 of this Act does not affect the term of office of a member appointed before the effective date of this Act, except as provided in section 2 of this Act.

Speaker of the House

President of the Senate

Chief Clerk of the House

Secretary of the Senate

This certifies that the within bill originated in the House of Representatives of the Fifty-eighth Legislative Assembly of North Dakota and is known on the records of that body as House Bill No. 1150.

House Vote: Yeas 90 Nays 0 Absent 4

Senate Vote: Yeas 29 Nays 17 Absent 1

Chief Clerk of the House

Received by the Governor at _____ M. on _____, 2003.

Approved at _____ M. on _____, 2003.

Governor

Filed in this office this _____ day of _____, 2003,
at _____ o'clock _____ M.

Secretary of State