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2005 HOUSE INDUSTRY, BUSINESS AND LABOR

HB 1120

2005 HOUSE STANDING COMMITTEE MINUTES

BILL/RESOLUTION NO. HB 1120

House Industry, Business and Labor Committee

Conference Committee

Hearing Date 1-17-05

Tape Number		Side A	Side B	Meter #
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Committee Clerk Signature Jan Rundle

Minutes: Chair Keiser: Let's open the hearing on HB 1120. Rep. Kasper to you.

Rep. Kasper, Dist. 46: WSI asked me to introduce this bill. This bill is addressing four areas. Definition of child, scholarships, communications with employers, and the confidentiality of social security numbers and their use. With that, I'd like to turn it over to the WSI representative. While we're waiting for the WSI representative to come up, I'm handing out an amendment to HB 1120. I think this amendment is primarily technical in nature but I want the committee to have it should they have any questions.

Rob Forward, staff counsel, Workforce Safety, testified in support of HB 1120. (Testimony attached.) In this bill WSI proposes to change the statutory definitions on child and grandchild, requests an increase in the amount it may award in scholarships, and proposes to grant medical providers the authority to communicate with employers. Section 1: This section of the bill changes the definition of child so that only children dependent on an injured worker for support are considered when an injured worker is eligible to receive the existing dependency allowance

Page 2 House Industry, Business and Labor Committee Bill/Resolution Number HB 1120 Hearing Date 1-17-05

for each child. The suggested changes would require additional proof of dependency through an appropriate court order or income tax return to confirm dependency status. Section 1 of this bill also removes the definition of grandchild. This definition is no longer used in our worker's compensation law and is not tied to any type of benefit. Section 1 also revises the definition of rehabilitation services and this was inadvertently placed in this bill and actually coincides with the changes proposed in HB 1171. We recommend the proposed change remain in this bill 1120. If 1120 were to pass and 1171 were not, we would work on that with Legislative Council. Section 3. This addresses scholarship increases for spouses and children for workers killed on the job as well as for injured workers with exceptional circumstances. When originally filed, this section would have increased the maximum total amount that could be awarded annually from WSI scholarship funds from \$150,000 to \$200,000 and increase the maximum yearly amount per individual from \$3000 to \$4000. (See Attachment.)

Rep. Ekstrom: On page 9, line 47, you have taken out the words "on the job training." What is the rationale behind that?

Forward: That is the definition of rehabilitation services that I spoke of earlier. That coincides with the changes in HB 1171. As I indicated earlier if 1171 does not pass we would make the appropriate change here and "on the job training" would stay in this statute.

Rep. Ekstrom: On page 11 dealing with scholarships for special circumstances--would that be retroactive?

Forward: Absolutely.

Rep. Ekstrom: Page 11, line 28, this is a bone of contention that I've had for a long time, "including prior and subsequent prognosis reports." This is the whole area of pre existing

Page 3 House Industry, Business and Labor Committee Bill/Resolution Number **HB 1120** Hearing Date **1-17-05**

conditions and just stating in terms of legislative intent, that would be prorated over the situation?

Forward: It is my understanding that is correct and anything that would effect our adjudication of that workplace injury.

Rep. Ekstrom: Page 12, we would be putting the employer into the loop--conversations between the Health care provider, WSI and the employer. I have difficulties with this as I stated in the previous bill. The employability of the injured worker in the future may be tainted by the communication. Do you see that could conceivably be a problem?

Forward: That could be a concern. What we look at is that the communication between the employer and treating physician and the good that can come from that far outweighs concerns of any improper thoughts or comments that may come from the employer to the doctor and vice versa. As I pointed out, we are here for the injured worker. What we are looking at is help from the doctors talking to the employers about modified positions. When you look at it from terms of safety, it's very important that the injured worker have a workplace that very safe for them if they're in a modified position.

Rep. Ekstrom: Then I request that we narrow the language in terms of exactly what those communications can be about. Medical privacy is a huge issue here. Again on page 12 with regard to social security numbers, we heard last week in an overview that they are now going to use the DMV assigned numbers instead of SSN. Have you investigated that idea?

Forward: No, I don't believe we have. This legislation is driven by our interaction with the medical community. They are behind us in technology and the way they do business. SSN are the verifiers they use along with birth dates. The medical providers already have these numbers.

Page 4 House Industry, Business and Labor Committee Bill/Resolution Number HB 1120 Hearing Date 1-17-05

We are not disclosing anything that they don't already have. In most cases, they've got it long before we do. Until the medical community gets caught up with the rest of us, we're asking for this.

Rep. Kasper: Can you share with us your request here to allow the employer to receive medical information directly without going through WSI? Under what circumstances would that be utilized and why do you want to eliminate you as the middle man if the claim revolves around WSI and what you do?

Forward: It's better to have the communications between the physicians and the employers because you are looking at situations where a person is being released to return to work in a modified position. It's also a time issue.

Rep. Kasper: If that's the case, when do you get notified of what the doctor wrote and based upon how you've been working with the injured worker, would there ever be any cases where your people might disagree with what the doctor says?

Forward: It's rare, but it could happen. We would have copies of whatever the doctor communicated to the employer the same as we normally would. If there is a disagreement that would most likely come between the injured worker and the doctor in what they can and cannot do.

Rep. Kasper: Why would the doctor want that liability. Wouldn't the doctor want to give you that report and you issue the report.

Forward: No. This statute insulates them from civil liability. I would venture to guess that most of our treating physicians would love to cut WSI out of that communication process

Page 5 House Industry, Business and Labor Committee Bill/Resolution Number **HB 1120** Hearing Date **1-17-05**

because they have a concern that their recommendations aren't followed correctly. There is also a time issue.

Rep. Amerman: On page 11 you are only adding two words and then try to get the intent of what this means. This thing is wide open. What's even more wide open is when you add the priors. There's a possibility that an employer could come up with more information than the spouse has. Here you can find out anything. Is that correct?

Forward: Yes, but you have to remember that in our claims process when they sign their initial claim form they release all their information to WSI. What it clarifies for the doctor is that they can talk to WSI about that information. We're crafting our medical records request around specific injuries.

Chairman Keiser: Before you sit down, Rob, would you talk about the amendments and what they do.

Forward: The first amendment refers to the scholarship portion. We're changing the total annual limits to \$350,000. The next portion speaks to exceptional circumstances for injured workers. They can receive scholarships. Currently the limit is \$3000 per year and what we are asking is to raise that to \$10,000 per year for five years. The second amendment deals with the average weekly wage definition we're asking that include coverage that is provided. The second part of the change inserts an average in the computation for the self employed.

Chairman Keiser: A technical point. WSI by statute is required to provide a fiscal note with your amendment that changes the fiscal note. You will have to resubmit unless you have already.

Forward: I cannot answer that, someone from our office will get you that.

Page 6 House Industry, Business and Labor Committee Bill/Resolution Number **HB 1120** Hearing Date **1-17-05**

Chairman Keiser: Any time you put in an amendment that changes the dollar value, you need to update the fiscal note.

Dave MacIver, president, ND Chamber of Commerce, representing a coalition of 17 different chambers across the state, testified in favor of the bill. We have not seen the amendments so we would like to take a look at those but overall, we like the looks of the bill itself. We think it's a good idea to raise the scholarship money is a good idea. All of us that have had children in college know that \$2000 a year isn't going to cut it. The technical portions of it can be ironed out, but overall the more that we can get the injured worker communicating with the employer and get that information to the employer about what they can and cannot do, it's just good business. It helps the injured worker get back to work which helps all of us.

Rep. Ekstrom: Would you object to limiting the scope of the conversation between the doctor and the employer?

MacIver: I'd like to see the wording on that before I make a statement, but probably not.

Rep. Amerman: The medical provider say the worker can come back to work for X amount of time, this makes it easier for the employer get the person back to work. I can see your point there. Do you think the employer should have knowledge of prior medical things? Why would the employer need or want carte blanc to look up anything in someone's medical record. **MacIver:** The employer should have the ability to see what he's dealing with. If he has something that may put someone else in his operation at risk. If we have a potential of risk there are instances when that would be appropriate.

Sebald Vetter, CAAE, testified in opposition to the bill. I think this is wrong. Social Security numbers should not be used by anyone but the medical profession. Other than that as far as the

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premiums going up for scholarships and all that, I go for it. I do not go for the Social Security deal.

Rep. Amerman: If claimants get a claim number for Worker's Comp and is that claim number given to medical providers so they can know who they're talking about anyway. Is that the way that works. I'm trying to understand if they already have the means why are we doing this. **Vetter:** They've got the social security number the minute you injured. We feel it's not fair to use it for anything. They know already what your situation is and they dig more up that's not related to you. No. We know how Workman's Comp works. They're out there to destroy you all the way.

Rep. Kasper: When an employee goes to work they have to provide a social security number on their W-4. When Workman's Comp has a claim they need the SSN so they can have the right person. The doctor has the SSN. So all this says is that the people can talk back and forth and use the SSN to handle the claim and it doesn't go beyond that. This just clarifies that. **Vetter:** It can beyond that. It's not the doctor's duty to talk to the employer. Why do we have all them people at Workman's Comp. Why should the doctor get involved in it yet. It's not the doctor's duty to go out and look for you a job. It's his duty to treat you. We pay Workman's Comp to do that.

Forward: Think of this as computers talking to each other. If we use the SSN as a verifier it will go faster. Right now we use names and birthrates.

Dan Zinneman, testified in opposition to the bill. WC has made a clam that they cannot process claims as fast, then you ask them whey they spend the million dollars on these high tech computers to speed up the process. We asked them to do what may insurance companies do.

Page 8 House Industry, Business and Labor Committee Bill/Resolution Number HB 1120 Hearing Date 1-17-05

Give you a card with your claim number on it. The federal privacy act of 1198 very clearly states that you cannot release that without an individuals signature. They are asking for more authority than the federal government. They also say they are incompetent in doing their work because they cannot communicate with the doctor. They didn't have any problem communicating with my doctor. My employer went out of business so how can they talk to the employer. This is just another strategy for them to get another foothold in your life and try to use whatever they can against you. When I got injured I had no problem with my employer. My biggest problem was Worker's Comp. How can we violate federal law because Worker's Comp wants us to.

Rep. Thorpe: Your concern is the SSN showing up in more computers.

Zinneman: That's true. Identity theft is at its peak.

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Deb Bale, injured worker, Jamestown, testified in opposition to the bill. My concern is the SSN. I see no reason for it. While I was working as an injured RN I gave my employer copies of everything. I'm puzzled as to why this is needed. Another thing that really concerns is that injured workers in ND are mainly manual laborers. My question is: In what setting would a white collar worker go into an office and sign a release for all his prior medical concerns to that employer? My past medical history has been incorrectly transmitted to both independent medical examiners. In turn that information has been used against me. The information is so embarrassing to me personally that I would never identify it in group of strangers at all. If you think this cannot be used against an employee, you don't realize how powerful it is for an injured worker to be standing up against a corporation with legal representation, my ex-employer had legal representation. I did not. That's my concern. I see no need for this. It is blatantly an invasion of privacy.

Page 9 House Industry, Business and Labor Committee Bill/Resolution Number HB 1120 Hearing Date 1-17-05

Dave Kemmitz, president, AFL-CIO, testified in opposition of the bill. I have concern over the WC indicates that when the employer needs this medical information it is to understand what the restrictions are in the workplace. Under the statute, WC is responsible to see that the employer understands the restrictions, implements them and helps the individual become productive. I think the committee ought to take a look at that section, 65.05.01, on rehabilitation. WC tells us they don't use it. I submit that they should be making more use of it. On the job training is a valuable tool. It should be returned to rehabilitation as a viable return to work that employees and employers can use. I'm not clear on page 11, line 22. Does it make it harder for claimant? **Shelly Seeberg** testified in opposition to the bill. In this section where we talk about prior information. I would like to remind the committee that there is a process that the bureau has when they go into administrative hearing and to the court of appeals when they can discovery and get any documentation they deem necessary. I see no reason for my employer to know prior medical care.

Leroy Volk, testified in opposition of the bill. The only reason I have against my SSN is when I got injured in 2000, 24 years ago I was injured. They said they wouldn't reopen that claim unless I filed a claim number. Why don't they use my social security number. This is just another loophole for them to jump around and make more paperwork for us and get more information. When you ask them for something you have to give them your claim number and that's what they go by.

Chairman Keiser closed the hearing on HB 1120.

FISCAL NOTE

Requested by Legislative Council

01/28/2005

Amendment to: HB 1120

1A. **State fiscal effect:** Identify the state fiscal effect and the fiscal effect on agency appropriations compared to funding levels and appropriations anticipated under current law.

	2003-200	5 Biennium	2005-200	7 Biennium	2007-2009 Biennium	
	General Fund	Other Funds	General Fund	Other Funds	General Fund	Other Funds
Revenues						
Expenditures						
Appropriations						

1B. County, city, and school district fiscal effect: Identify the fiscal effect on the appropriate political subdivision.

2003-2005 Biennium		200	5-2007 Bienn	ium	2007-2009 Biennium				
	Counties	Cities	School Districts	Counties	Cities	School Districts	Counties	Cities	School Districts

2. Narrative: Identify the aspects of the measure which cause fiscal impact and include any comments relevant to your analysis.

WORKFORCE SAFETY & INSURANCE 2005 LEGISLATION SUMMARY OF ACTUARIAL INFORMATION

BILL DESCRIPTION: Scholarships; Definitions

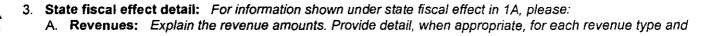
BILL NO: Engrossed HB 1120

SUMMARY OF ACTUARIAL INFORMATION: Workforce Safety & Insurance, together with its actuary, Glenn Evans of Pacific Actuarial Consultants, has reviewed the legislation proposed in this bill in conformance with Section 54-03-25 of the North Dakota Century Code.

The engrossed bill increases the maximum amount of scholarships from \$3,000 per year to \$4,000 per year for up to five years for spouses and dependent children of a worker who died as a result of a compensable work-related injury; establishes the amount of scholarships issued in exceptional circumstances at \$10,000 per year for up to 5 years; increases the maximum amount of scholarships that can be awarded annually from \$150,000 to \$300,000; redefines the definition of child under workers' compensation law; redefines average weekly wage as wages received from all employments in which coverage was required or otherwise secured; changes the basis for determining the average weekly wage of a self employed employer from 1 year to an average of 3 years; clarifies the ability of healthcare personnel to communicate directly with employers on claims of their employees; and allows WSI to share social security numbers with medical facilities.

FISCAL IMPACT: The engrossed bill will allow for a potential increase in annual scholarships awarded from \$150,000 to \$300,000. These increases will be reflected in future premium levels but should not have a material impact. It is anticipated that the remaining items within the amended bill will not have a material impact.

DATE: January 31, 2005



fund affected and any amounts included in the executive budget.

- B. Expenditures: Explain the expenditure amounts. Provide detail, when appropriate, for each agency, line item, and fund affected and the number of FTE positions affected.
- C. **Appropriations:** Explain the appropriation amounts. Provide detail, when appropriate, of the effect on the biennial appropriation for each agency and fund affected and any amounts included in the executive budget. Indicate the relationship between the amounts shown for expenditures and appropriations.

Name: Phone Number: John Halvorson 328-3760 Agency: WSI Date Prepared: 01/31/2005

FISCAL NOTE Requested by Legislative Council

12/29/2004

Bill/Resolution No.: HB 1120

1A. **State fiscal effect:** Identify the state fiscal effect and the fiscal effect on agency appropriations compared to funding levels and appropriations anticipated under current law.

2003-2005 Biennium		2005-200	7 Biennium	2007-2009 Biennium		
General Fund	Other Funds	General Fund	Other Funds	General Fund	Other Funds	

Revenues Expenditures Appropriations

1B. County, city, and school district fiscal effect: Identify the fiscal effect on the appropriate political subdivision.

		200.	-2007 Dieili						
	Counties	Cities	School Districts	Counties	Cities	School Districts	Counties	Cities	School Districts

2. Narrative: Identify the aspects of the measure which cause fiscal impact and include any comments relevant to your analysis.

WORKFORCE SAFETY & INSURANCE 2005 LEGISLATION SUMMARY OF ACTUARIAL INFORMATION

BILL DESCRIPTION: Scholarships

BILL NO: HB 1120

SUMMARY OF ACTUARIAL INFORMATION: Workforce Safety & Insurance, together with its actuary, Glenn Evans of Pacific Actuarial Consultants, has reviewed the legislation proposed in this bill in conformance with Section 54-03-25 of the North Dakota Century Code.

The proposed legislation increases the maximum amount of scholarships from \$3,000 per year to \$4,000 per year for up to five years for spouses and dependent children of a worker who died as a result of a compensable work-related injury; increases the maximum amount of scholarships that can be awarded annually in scholarships from \$150,000 to \$200,000; redefines the definition of child under workers' compensation law; allows healthcare personnel to communicate directly with employers on claims of their employees; and allows WSI to share social security numbers with medical facilities.

FISCAL IMPACT: Scholarship costs will increase, however, the increase will not have a material impact on future premium levels.

3. State fiscal effect detail: For information shown under state fiscal effect in 1A, please:

- A. **Revenues:** Explain the revenue amounts. Provide detail, when appropriate, for each revenue type and fund affected and any amounts included in the executive budget.
- B. Expenditures: Explain the expenditure amounts. Provide detail, when appropriate, for each agency, line

item, and fund affected and the number of FTE positions affected.

C. **Appropriations:** Explain the appropriation amounts. Provide detail, when appropriate, of the effect on the biennial appropriation for each agency and fund affected and any amounts included in the executive budget. Indicate the relationship between the amounts shown for expenditures and appropriations.

Name: Phone Number: John Halvorson 328-3760 Agency: WSi Date Prepared: 01/11/2005

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PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO HB 1120

Page 12, line 1, after "employer" insert ",except that any such information directly disclosed to the employer must be relevant to the employee's work injury or to return to work issues"

Renumber accordingly



PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO HOUSE BILL NO. 1120

Hopted

Page 2, line 2, after "employments" insert "for which coverage is required or otherwise secured"

Page 2, line 15, after the first "the" insert "average annual", after "net" insert "<u>self-employed</u>", after the second "the" insert "<u>three</u>"

Page 2, line 16, overstrike "year" and insert immediately thereafter "years"

Page 11, line 3, replace "two" with "three" and remove the overstrike over "fifty"

Page 11, line 4, after "years" insert ", except that scholarships awarded on the basis of exceptional circumstances may not exceed ten thousand dollars per year for more than five years, per applicant"

Renumber accordingly

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Date: 1-26-05 Roll Call Vote #:

2005 HOUSE STANDING COMMITTEE ROLL CALL VOTES BILL/RESOLUTION NO. HB 1120

House

INDUSTRY, BUSINESS AND LABOR

Committee

Check here for Conference Committee

Legislative Council Amendment Number

Adopt Amendments (1 \$ 2) Rep. Ruby Seconded By Action Taken

Motion Made By

Yes No

Representatives G. Keiser-Chairman N. Johnson-Vice Chairman Rep. D. Clark **Rep. D. Dietrich** Rep. M. Dosch **Rep. G. Froseth** Rep. J. Kasper Rep. D. Nottestad Rep. D. Ruby Rep. D. Vigesaa

Representatives Rep. B. Amerman Rep. T. Boe Rep. M. Ekstrom **Rep. E. Thorpe**

Yes No

Dosch,

Total

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No

Absent

Floor Assignment

(Yes)

If the vote is on an amendment, briefly indicate intent:

58126.0102 Title.

Not Ado Pte

Prepared by the Legislative Council staff for Representative Amerman January 25, 2005

PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO HOUSE BILL NO. 1120

Page 1, line 1, remove "create and enact a new subsection to section 65-05-32 of the North Dakota"

Page 1, remove line 2

Page 1, line 3, remove ", subsection 1 of section"

Page 1, line 4, remove "65-05-25, and section 65-05-30"

Page 1 line 5, after the second comma insert "and"

Page 1, line 6, remove ", lump sum settlements, and communications regarding"

Page 1, line 7, remove "medical treatment"

Page 9, line 27, remove the overstrike over "on the job training or"

Page 11, remove lines 10 through 31

Page 12, remove lines 1 through 7

Page 12, line 8, remove "Sections 5 and 6 of this Act apply to all claims,"

Page 12, line 9, remove "regardless of the date of injury.", replace "Sections" with "Section", remove "and 4", and replace "apply" with "applies"

Renumber accordingly

1-26-05 Date:

2005 HOUSE STANDING COMMITTEE ROLL CALL VOTES **BILL/RESOLUTION NO.** HB1120

House

INDUSTRY, BUSINESS AND LABOR

Committee

No

Check here for Conference Committee

Legislative Council Amendment Number

Action Taken

Roll Call Vote #:

)

Motion Made By

Adopt 3rd Ameril Mour Ameriman Seconded By Rep Ekstrom,

No	Representatives	Yes
Х	Rep. B. Amerman	X
X X	Rep. T. Boe	Х
X	Rep. M. Ekstrom	X
X	Rep. E. Thorpe	Х

Representatives Yes G. Keiser-Chairman **N. Johnson-Vice Chairman** Rep. D. Clark **Rep. D. Dietrich** Rep. M. Dosch **Rep. G. Froseth** Rep. J. Kasper A Rep. D. Nottestad Rep. D. Ruby Rep. D. Vigesaa

4 No Kasper (1)

Absent

Total

Floor Assignment

(Yes)

If the vote is on an amendment, briefly indicate intent:

58126.0103 Title.0200 Adopted by the Industry, Business and Labor Committee

January 26, 2005

HOUSE AMENDMENTS TO HOUSE BILL NO. 1120 IBL 1-27-05

Page 2, line 2, after "employments" insert "for which coverage is required or otherwise secured"

Page 2, line 15, after the first "the" insert "average annual", after "net" insert "self-employed", and after the second "the" insert "three"

Page 2, line 16, overstrike "year" and insert immediately thereafter "years"

HOUSE AMENDMENTS TO HB 1120 IBL 1-27-05 Page 11, line 3, replace "two" with "three"

Page 11, line 4, after "years" insert ", except that scholarships awarded on the basis of exceptional circumstances may not exceed ten thousand dollars per year for more than five years, per applicant"

HOUSE AMENDMENTS TO HB 1120 IBL 1-27-05 Page 12, line 1, after "employer" insert ", except that any such information directly disclosed to the employer must be relevant to the employee's work injury or to return to work issues"

Renumber accordingly

Roll Call Vote #: 3

2005 HOUSE STANDING COMMITTEE ROLL CALL VOTES BILL/RESOLUTION NO. HB 1120

House

INDUSTRY, BUSINESS AND LABOR

Committee

Check here for Conference Committee

Legislative Council Amendment Number

Action Taken

Do Pass As Amended

Seconded By

Motion Made By

Rep. Dosch

Yes

XXXXXXXXXXXX

Representatives
G. Keiser-Chairman
N. Johnson-Vice Chairman
Rep. D. Clark
Rep. D. Dietrich
Rep. M. Dosch
Rep. G. Froseth
Rep. J. Kasper
Rep. D. Nottestad
Rep. D. Ruby
Rep. D. Vigesaa

No	Representatives	Yes	No
	Rep. B. Amerman		X
	Rep. T. Boe		Х
	Rep. M. Ekstrom		X
	Rep. E. Thorpe		Х

Rep Ruby

(1) Rep Kasper Rep. Dosch. (Yes)

Floor Assignment

Total

Absent

If the vote is on an amendment, briefly indicate intent:

REPORT OF STANDING COMMITTEE

- HB 1120: Industry, Business and Labor Committee (Rep. Keiser, Chairman) recommends AMENDMENTS AS FOLLOWS and when so amended, recommends DO PASS (9 YEAS, 4 NAYS, 1 ABSENT AND NOT VOTING). HB 1120 was placed on the Sixth order on the calendar.
- Page 2, line 2, after "employments" insert "for which coverage is required or otherwise secured"
- Page 2, line 15, after the first "the" insert "average annual", after "net" insert "self-employed", and after the second "the" insert "three"

Page 2, line 16, overstrike "year" and insert immediately thereafter "years"

Page 11, line 3, replace "two" with "three"

- Page 11, line 4, after "years" insert ", except that scholarships awarded on the basis of exceptional circumstances may not exceed ten thousand dollars per year for more than five years, per applicant"
- Page 12, line 1, after "<u>employer</u>" insert ", except that any such information directly disclosed to the employer must be relevant to the employee's work injury or to return to work <u>issues</u>"

Renumber accordingly

Heave Atreiser

2005 SENATE INDUSTRY, BUSINESS AND LABOR

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HB 1120

2005 SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE MINUTES

BILL/RESOLUTION NO. HB 1120

Senate Industry, Business and Labor Committee

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Conference Committee

Hearing Date February 28,2005

Tape Number

Side A X Side B

Meter # 1,735-6040

Committee Clerk Signature

Joy Kent

Minutes: Chairman Mutch opened the hearing on HB 1120, relating to the use of social security numbers by workforce safety and insurance. All Senators were present.

Jodi Bjornson, general counsel for Workforce Safety and Insurance, introduced the bill. See written testimony.

Senator Klein- Do we have a lot of scholarships out there right now?

Jodi- Since the inception of the scholarship program, we have distributed over \$480,000.

Senator Nething- Under section 3, you mention lines 10 & 11, that the scholarships may not

exceed \$10,000 per year. What are the limits now?

Jodi- With respect to the exceptional circumstances, they were bound by these provisions:

\$150,000 cap and \$3,000 maximum per applicant per year.

Senator Nething- Was there still a 5 year limitation?

Jodi-Yes.

Page 2 Senate Industry, Business and Labor Committee Bill/Resolution Number HB 1120 Hearing Date February 28. 2005

Senator Klein- Do you know how many employers exempt themselves from coverage? Jodi- I am not sure. I know that it is optional.

Senator Krebsbach- Now, we are going to \$300,000 available with a maximum scholarship of \$10,000, so only 30 people would be eligible. Is this correct?

Jodi-Yes. However, the exceptional amount only applies to the scholarship applicants.

Dave Kemnitz, President of the North Dakota AFL-CIO, appeared before the committee. He supports scholarship changes, sometimes kids lose their parents when they are young and need help with furthering their education. He has some concerns with the social security number being used for this. If House Bill 1171 doesn't pass this would still be in effect.

Senator Nething- You did not mention changing the definition of a child. Does that create any problem?

Dave- No.

purposes.

Cevold Vetter appeared before the committee. He does not like the fact that in Section 6, the social security number can be used for anything they want.

Senator Heitkamp- If I'm understanding Jodi's testimony correctly, there is a protection from a Federal Act that they are not allowed to share the social security number to anyone once the information is transferred. Doesn't that ease your mind?

Cevold- It don't see where it flat out says that in there.

Senator Klein- They already have your social security number, they are working with your medical provider who is governed by the HIPPA laws, where they can't share it with anybody. Senator Krebsbach- WSI just needs to have the social security number for verification



Page 3 Senate Industry, Business and Labor Committee Bill/Resolution Number HB 1120 Hearing Date February 28. 2005

Senator Heitkamp- Cevold, if the concerns about section 6 are OK, do you support the rest of the bill?

Cevold-Yes.

Jeffrey Miller, an injured worker on workmen's compensation appeared before the committee. His 16 year old daughter was raped for 3 years by her stepfather and later became pregnant. He voiced his concerns regarding custody, and receiving benefits.

Senator Heitkamp- So, the overstrike on grandchildren page 8, is your main concern?

Jeff- Yes.

Deb Bail, an injured nurse from Jamestown appeared before the committee, in opposition to the bill. She explained her situation. Workers compensation is giving the employer authority to contact the doctor and obtain your medical records. She sees it as a problem of confidentiality. Her major concern is that injured workers of the state will not be able to find a physician who is willing to tolerate the amount of paperwork that comes with this.

Senator Nething- Did you testify before the House committee?

Deb-Yes.

Senator Klein- When the employer views your records, it has to be relevant to your work injury. **Deb-** If an employer has the opportunity to view your records, that is what I have a problem with. They could view your entire life's medical history. This is invasive and not necessary.

Glen Baltrusch appeared in opposition to the bill. He requested all of the new language on page 2 be removed. He requested removal of other sections of the bill, that he views as unnecessary.

Page 4 Senate Industry, Business and Labor Committee Bill/Resolution Number HB 1120 Hearing Date February 28. 2005

Dave Mc Iver appeared in support of the bill, representing the ND Chamber of Commerce.

The bill is a good example on caring for workers and their families, especially with the

scholarship provision.

Dan Finneman, an injured worker appeared before the committee. See written testimony.

Ed Christianson appeared before the committee. Workers compensation works for the state and

for the employer. Its their job to get the necessary information from the doctor. The only part he

has concerns about is the employer contacting the doctor directly.

Chairman Mutch closed the hearing on HB 1120. No action was taken.

Date: 3-16-05 Roll Call Vote #: 1

2005 SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE ROLL CALL VOTES BILL/RESOLUTION NO.]/20

Industry, Business, and Labor Senate

Committee

Check here for Conference Committee

Legislative Council Amendment Number

tass Action Taken Motion Made By Klein

Senators

Yes

No

Chairman Mutch Senator Klein Senator Krebsbach Senator Espegard **Senator Nething**

2



Senators **Senator Fairfield** Senator Heitkamp

Seconded By Espegard

Yes √ No

Total (Yes)

Absent

Floor Assignment Heitkamp

No (

If the vote is on an amendment, briefly indicate intent:

REPORT OF STANDING COMMITTEE (410) March 18, 2005 8:58 a.m.

REPORT OF STANDING COMMITTEE

HB 1120, as engrossed: Industry, Business and Labor Committee (Sen. Mutch, Chairman) recommends DO PASS (7 YEAS, 0 NAYS, 0 ABSENT AND NOT VOTING). Engrossed HB 1120 was placed on the Fourteenth order on the calendar.



(2) DESK, (3) COMM

2005 TESTIMONY

HB 1120

WORKFORCE SAFETY & INSURANCE 2005 LEGISLATION SUMMARY OF ACTUARIAL INFORMATION

BILL DESCRIPTION: Scholarships; Definitions

BILL NO: HB 1120 with Amendments

SUMMARY OF ACTUARIAL INFORMATION: Workforce Safety & Insurance, together with its actuary, Glenn Evans of Pacific Actuarial Consultants, has reviewed the legislation proposed in this bill in conformance with Section 54-03-25 of the North Dakota Century Code.

The proposed legislation increases the maximum amount of scholarships from \$3,000 per year to \$4,000 per year for up to five years for spouses and dependent children of a worker who died as a result of a compensable work-related injury; increases the maximum amount of scholarships that can be awarded annually in scholarships from \$150,000 to \$200,000; redefines the definition of child under workers' compensation law; allows healthcare personnel to communicate directly with employers on claims of their employees; and allows WSI to share social security numbers with medical facilities.

The proposed amendments redefine average weekly wage as wages received from all employments in which verage was required or otherwise secured; changes the basis for determining the average weekly wage of a self employed employer from 1 year to an average of 3 years; increases the amount of scholarships issued in exceptional circumstances to \$10,000 per year for up to 5 years; and increases the maximum annual amount awarded in scholarships to \$350,000.

FISCAL IMPACT: The fiscal impact of the proposed bill with amendments will allow for a potential increase in annual scholarships awarded of up to \$200,000. These increases will be reflected in future premium levels but should not have a material impact. It is anticipated that the remaining items within the amended bill will not have a material impact.

DATE: January 17, 2005

2005 House Bill No. 1120 Testimony before the House Industry, Business, and Labor Committee Presented by: Rob Forward, Staff Counsel Workforce Safety and Insurance January 17, 2005

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Mr. Chairman and Members of the Committee:

Good Morning. My name is Rob Forward and I am staff counsel for Workforce Safety and Insurance (WSI). I am here today to testify in support of House Bill 1120. In this bill, WSI proposes changes to the statutory definitions of "child" and "grandchild," requests an increase in the amounts it may award in scholarships, and proposes to grant medical providers the authority to communicate with employers.

Section 1. This section of the bill changes the definition of "child" so that only children dependent on an injured worker for support are considered when an injured worker is eligible to receive the existing dependency allowance for each child. The suggested changes would require additional proof of dependency through an appropriate court order or income tax return to confirm dependency status. Section 1 of this bill also removes the definition of "grandchild." This definition is no longer used in our workers' compensation law and is not tied to any type of benefit, so removing this language from the Code has no substantive effect. Section 1 of this bill also revises the definition of "Rehabilitation services." This was inadvertently placed in this bill and coincides with the changes proposed in HB 1171. We recommend the proposed change remain in HB 1120; however, if HB 1120 were to pass and HB 1171 were not, we would work with Legislative Council to correct the removal.

Section 2. This section of the bill is only necessary because of the renumbering brought about by the changes in Section 1 of this bill.

Section 3. This portion of the bill addresses scholarship increase for the spouses and children of workers killed on the job as well as for injured workers with exceptional circumstances. When originally filed, Section 3 would have increased the maximum total amount that could be awarded annually from WSI's scholarship fund from one hundred fifty thousand dollars to two hundred thousand dollars, and increased the maximum yearly amount for an individual from three thousand to four thousand dollars. As a result of some further discussion and research, we are asking you today to consider an amendment to this section of the bill. While the increase for an individual from three thousand to four thousand dollars would remain, the amendment increases the total annual award limit to three hundred-fifty thousand dollars as well as raise the limit of scholarship awards for injured workers with exceptional circumstances to \$10,000 per year for up to five years. The intent of this increase is to help an injured worker when their wage replacement is low and their age and other factors show an education or retraining would help them, but they do not qualify under existing law. These proposed increases are intended to address the rising cost of a college education and to ensure the scholarships have meaningful value.

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Section 4. This section of the bill addresses WSI's authority to settle claims with permanently and totally disabled workers. The law currently requires a permanently and totally disabled worker to provide a plan showing the worker can return "to work" as a productive member of society. However, this requirement is at odds with the definition of permanent and total disability in which an individual is supposed to be incapable of working. Under the proposed change, the injured worker will still be required to submit a plan demonstrating they can be "a productive member of society," but they do not have to show that their plan will return them to work.

Section 5. The changes in this portion of the bill clarify that WSI may obtain medical information needed to process an injured worker's claim. It will also allow employers to communicate directly with medical providers. Currently, the law allows an employer to obtain information about an injured worker's claim on file at WSI, including the medical information. However, some medical providers are reluctant to communicate directly with employers, and so WSI becomes a "middleman" in communicating medical information between the employer and the treating doctor. This is cumbersome and unnecessary. Open and direct communication between the doctor, injured worker, and employer on the medical information relevant to the claim is vital because the employer plays one of the most important roles in returning an injured worker to the workplace. Direct input from the treating physician to the employer can help the employer better understand the ramifications of the injury on the worker and assist them in their return. The proposed change takes WSI out of the middle and allows doctors, injured workers and employers to freely communicate.

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Section 6. This section allows WSI to use an injured worker's social security number as a verifier when communicating with health care providers. The 2003 Legislative Assembly enacted a law that prohibits state agencies from disclosing a citizen's social security number. While WSI supports the concept that formed the basis of this legislation, the inability to use a social security number as a verifier when dealing with medical providers has had the unintended consequence of slowing the processing of injured workers' claims. This is because social security numbers have historically been the best way to verify and guarantee the identity of an injured worker during the exchange of claim and medical information when processing their claim.

In order to process claims more quickly and accurately, WSI proposes a very limited exception to the use of social security numbers. It should be noted that the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA) prohibits medical providers from disclosing the number to the public. Therefore, an injured workers' confidentiality is protected by HIPAA while the number is in the hands of the medical provider, and it is protected by North Dakota law while in WSI's possession.

Finally, WSI is proposing a second amendment to this bill which clarifies the definition of "average weekly wage" to mean wages from all employments where workers' compensation coverage is required or otherwise secured. Additionally, this proposal modifies the basis for calculating the average weekly wage of a self-employed worker. The current basis is the higher of the net earnings from the preceding tax year or the preceding 52 weeks. The amendment changes the basis for the calculation to the higher of either the average annual net earnings from the preceding three tax years or the preceding 52 weeks. The change is intended to recognize that self-employed workers may experience income swings from year to year, and so the use of an average when calculating their income gives a more fair representation of their wage loss.

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Thank you for your consideration. I will be glad to answer any questions you might have about House Bill 1120 or the proposed amendments.

PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO HOUSE BILL NO. 1120

Page 2, line 2, after "employments" insert "for which coverage is required or otherwise secured"

Page 2, line 15, after the first "the" insert "average annual", after "net" insert "self-employed", and after the second "the" insert "three"

Page 2, line 16, overstrike "year" and insert immediately thereafter "years"

Renumber accordingly

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1) PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO HOUSE BILL NO. 1120

Scholarship Changes

Page 11, line 3, replace "two" with "three"

Page 11, line 4, after "years", insert ",except that scholarships awarded on the basis of exceptional circumstances may not exceed ten thousand dollars per year for more than five years, per applicant"

2) PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO HOUSE BILL NO. 1120

Self-employed changes

Page 2, line 2, after "employments" insert "for which coverage is required or otherwise secured"

Page 2, line 15, after the first "the" insert "<u>average</u> <u>annual</u>", after "net" insert "self-employed", and after the second "the" insert "<u>three</u>"

Page 2, line 16, overstrike "year" and insert immediately thereafter "years"

Perioperative Internal Medicine Consultation



PATIENT NAME:	DANIEL FINNEMAN	DOB: 04-04-1959
PROCEDURE DATE:	01-14-2003	This information has been disclosed to you from records whose confidentiality is protected by Federal law. Federal regulations (42 CFR Part 2) prohibit you from making any further disclosed to the test of the test.
DATE OF DICTATION:	01-14-2003	further disclosure of it without the specific written consent of the person to whom it pertains, or as otherwise permit- ted by such regulations. A general authorization for the release of medical or other information in NOT sufficient
CONSULTING PHYSICIAN:	RAYMOND L. PIERCE, J	for this purpose. M.D. BLACK HILLS SURGERY CENTER, L.L.P. Medical Records Department
ATTENDING PHYSICIAN:	Larry Teuber, M.D.	· · · ·

The patient is a 43-year-old white male from Dickinson, ND, referred by Dr. Teuber for a perioperative internal medicine consultation.

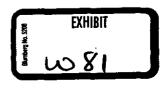
17 HISTORY OF PRESENT ILLNESS:

The patient is a 43-year-old white male who evidently suffered a fall at work in 1995 and has had ongoing problems with back pain, paresthesias down his legs, urinary retention with bladder dysfunction and intermittent constipation since that time. The patient did undergo a lumbar microdiskectomy in 1995 as well as lumbar anterior decompression with interbody fusion in April of 1999. The patient continues to have problems, has recently been reevaluated by neurosurgery as an outpatient and is found to have nonfusion of his prior anterior lumbar procedure. The patient is currently admitted status post L4-L5

The patient is currently lying comfortably in bed. Patient is comfortable and states pain control is currently adequate. Patient had some nausea and vomiting postoperatively which has resolved with antiemetics. The patient is currently tolerating some solid foods. The patient does have moderate hoarseness however has ao had any dysphagia, chocking, strider, shortness of breath or chest pain.

PAST MEDICAL HISTORY:

- 1. Patient has had a history of intermittent migraines for which he states he takes no specific medications.
- 2. Patient has had a history of urinary dysfunction with urinary retention and frequency for which he has had multiple workups with multiple urology providers. The patient has been seen at Mayo clinic for a multitude of his problems. The patient had bene tried on alpha-blockers with no response. Has also had a TENS unit for neural modulation with no response. The patient was to have an Interstim device implanted however workman's comp would not okay this so procedure was never pursued. The patient has used intermittent catheterization however has some difficulty doing that.



44 CONTINUED

45 * RE: Daniel Finneman

46 DATE: 01-14-2003

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- 3. The patient also is having problems with intermittent constipation. The patient currently takes Docusate sodium daily at nighttime. The patient currently denies any ongoing constipation.
 - 4. Patient had recent sinusitis in late December found on an MRI scan which was done for workup of onset of tinnitus. Patient states his sinus problems seem to have improved considerably with Amoxicillin treatment that he had at that time. The patient states his tinnitus has not improved.
- 5. The patient has also had some erectile dysfunction along with his urinary tract symptoms.
- 6. Patient has had chronic problems with episodes of chest discomfort of multiple different types. Patient did have a stress test in 1998, which was normal. Patient has stated that he had an injury to the middle of his back being hit with a pulley of some type in his youth and was told at that time that he had some sort of bone chip or secondary reactive bone spur formation in the middle of his spine which accounts for some of his chest pain.

This information has been disclosed to you from records whose confidentiality is protected by Federal law. Federal

equiations (42 CFR Part 2) prohibit you from making any

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of the parson to whom it pertains, or as otherwise permitted by such regulations. A general authorization for the

strate of medical or other information in NOT sufficient

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BLACK HILLS SURGERY CENTER, L.L.R.

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- 7. The patient has had prior knee surgeries on his right knee in 1987 and 1995.
- 8. Patient has had a vasectomy in 1992.
- 9. Patient had a tonsillectomy in 1975.

CURRENT MEDICATIONS:

- 65 I. Multivitamin daily.
- 66 2. Calcium with Vitamin D three times daily.
- 67 3. Docusate sodium daily at bedtime.

69 ALLERGIES:

No known allergies.

SOCIAL HISTORY:

The patient is divorced. Is a self-employed building contractor and lives independently in North Dakota.

<u>HABITS:</u>

- 1. Tobacco patient is a lifelong nonsmoker.
- 2. Alcohol patient rarely drinks alcohol.
- 3. Drugs patient has never used any illicit drugs.

FAMILY HISTORY:

- 1. Father died secondary to a stroke at the age of 63.
- 2. Family history is otherwise noncontributory.

REVIEW OF SYSTEMS:

- 1. Patient complaints of lightheadedness and sweats after he takes his bedtime Docusate sodium.
- 2. The patient had a recent sinus infection as noted above.
- 3. The patient has tinnitus as noted above which gets worse with exposure to high pitched sounds which has not resolved with treatment of his sinusitis.
- 4. The patient has intermittent migraines as noted above.
- 5. The patient has multiple types of intermittent chest pains including pain that seems to begin in his back and radiating around his sides. Patient also gets chest pain at times post prandially particularly if he eats relatively dry foods without drinking enough liquids. Patient also states he gets some intermittent regurgitation of food into his mouth. Patient also admits to some episodes of heartburn.
- Patient denies any symptomology at nighttime or awakening him from sleep.
- 95 6. Patient has chronic urinary retention as noted above.

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97 `	CONTINUED	
98	RE: Daniel Finneman	
99	DATE: 01-14-2003	· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·
100	PAGE 3	
21	· ·	
2		
103	7 Patient was having probler	ns with constipation however denies any constipation at this time. The
104	patient does state that he g	ets some intermittent bright red blood per rectum primarily on the toiler
105	paper but occasionally stre	aking the stool.
106	8 Patient also states that som	etimes he gets pains or paresthesia or numbness going down his arms
107	more so on the left than the	e right.
108	9. Patient did state having his	tory of hypercholesterolemia on his Colby questionnaire however is
109	currently taking no lipid re	ducing medications.
110	10. Patient also has some prob	lems with erectile dysfunction and premature ejaculation also with onset
111	at the time of his urinary re	etention problems.
112	11. Patient denies any recent v	veight loss, appetite change, fevers, chills, vision problems, epistasis,
113	cough, cold, hemoptysis, p	alpitations, dizziness, syncope, edema, jaundice, diarrhea, hematuria,
114	skin rashes, abnormal bruit	sing or bleeding, tremors, seizures, memory deficits, depression or
115	psychiatric symptoms.	
116		
117	PHYSICAL EXAMINATION:	
118	GENERAL:	Shows a well developed, well nourished white male lying
119		comfortably in bed in no acute distress. The patient does have -
120		moderate hoarseness but no strider.
121	VITAL SIGNS:	Show temperature of 99.1 degrees, blood pressure is 100/50, heart
122		rate is 90, respiratory rate is 18, oxygen saturation is 96% on room
123	·	air.
124	HEENT EXAM:	Shows patient to be normocephalic and atraumatic. Pupils are equal,
5		round and reactive. Extraocular muscles are intact. Sclerae are clear.
5		There is no nystagmus. Oropharynx is clear and moist. Neck is
127		supple with no gross IVD and no carotid bruits. There is no gross **
128		thyromegaly, adenopathy or masses.
129	LUNGS:	Clear to auscultation with good airflow bilaterally.
130	CARDIOVASCULAR EX	
131		is no gross murmur, gallop or heave.
132	ABDOMEN:	Flat, bowel sounds are positive. Abdomen is soft and nontender with
133		no gross hepatosplenomegaly or masses.
134	EXTREMITIES:	Show no edema, pulses are adequate in all four extremities. Calves
135		are soft and nontender.
136	NEUROLOGIC EXAM:	Shows patient to be alert and oriented times three. Cranial nerves are
137		grossly intact. Patient moves all four extremities with no gross focal
138		deficits. Pedal plantar flexion and dorsiflexion is 5 and 5 and
139		symmetric bilaterally.
140		
141	LABORATORY:	
142	Done on 1-7-03 showed a hemogle	obin of 16.8, hematocrit of 47.0, white blood cell count of 5.92, platelet

count of 234,000, normal red blood cell indices and normal white blood cell differential to you from records

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whose confidentiality is projected by Federal taw. Federal regulations (42 CFR Part 2) prohibit you from making any further disclosure of it without the specific written consent of the person to whom it pentains, or as otherwise permit-

ted by such regulations. A general authorization for the release of medical or other information in NOT sufficient

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for this purpose.

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144 CONTINUED 145

RE: Daniel Finneman 146

DATE: 01-14-2003 147

148 PAGE 4

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ASSESSMENT & PLAN:

- 1. Chronic low back pain with lumbar radiculopathies and urinary retention secondary to a fall with resultant lumbar disk disease - the patient is status post prior lumbar diskectomy in 1995 and prior anterior lumbar decompression with interbody fusion in April of 1999 with subsequent fusion failure. The patient is now status post posterior lumbar interbody fusion. Patient seems stable postoperatively at this time.
 - 2. Chronic urinary retention patient currently has perioperative Foley. Will follow clinically when Foley is removed.
- 3. Tinnitus of relatively recent onset patient did have maxillary sinusitis, which was treated. Patient will also receive some perioperative IV antibiotics routinely. Patient will also receive three doses of postoperative Decadron. Will see if any of these have any further effect on relieving patient's subacute tinnitus. Otherwise will refer back to primary physician for further follow-up.
- 4. Migraines patient denies any current symptoms. Will follow clinically.
- 5. Chest pain seems multifactorial. Some musculoskeletal component, which seems relatively chronic which we will refer back to his primary for ongoing follow-up and evaluation. Patient also possibly has some component of GI chest pain and dysphagia with dry solid foods. Question if patient has chronic gastroesophageal reflux disease and/or hiatal hernia. Will put patient empirically on proton pump inhibitors during his hospital stay and follow clinically.
 - 6. Prior stated history of hyperlipidemia will refer back to primary physician for further evaluation and follow-up.
 - 7. History of degenerative joint disease status post prior knee surgeries chronic.
 - 8. Intermittent bright red blood per rectum with or without intermittent constipation preoperative hemoglobin was well within normal limits. Doubt significant GI bleed. Possibly patient has chronic hemorrhoids and/or recurrent fissures particularly if continues to have recurrent constipation. Will refer for further evaluation to primary physician.

ST.W. DICKINSON ND 58601

177 **PHYSICIAN SIGNATURE:**

178 DICTATED: 01-14-2003

179 BY: RAYMOND L. PIERCE, M.D.

180 01-15-2003 aam 181 JOB #: 38360

182

183 CC: DR. TEUBER DR. THOMAS TEMPLETON - 339 Date: 1/15/2003

185 *DRAFT COPY-until signed by a physician or healthcare provider.* 186

187 188

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This information has been disclosed to you from records whose confidentiality is protected by Federal law. Federal regulations (42 CFR Part 2) prohibit you from making any further disclosure of it without the specific written consent of the person to whom it pertains, or as otherwise permitted by such regulations. A general authorization for the release of medical or other information in NOT sufficient for this purpose.

BLACK NILLS SURGERY CENTER, L.L.P. Medical Records Dopartmont

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DISCHARGE **SUMMARY**

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		· ·	
3	PATIENT NAME:	DANIEL M. FINNEMAN	DOB: 04-04-1959
4 5	DATE OF ADMISSION:	01-15-2003	
6 7	DATE OF DISCHARGE:	01-17-2003	
8 9	DICTATING PHYSICIAN:	JO DETWILER, PA-C/R.	AYMOND L. PIERCE, M.D.
10			
11 12	ATTENDING PHYSICIAN:	LARRY TEUBER, M.D.	
13			
14	ADMITTING DIAGNOSIS:		· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·
15	Low back pain with bilateral	leg radiculopathy secondary to p	pseudoarthrosis at L4-5.
16			
17	DISCHARGE DIAGNOSIS:		
18		lateral leg radiculopathy second	lary to pseudoarthrosis at L4-5.
19 20	 Status post ALIF L4-5 History of urinary reterminary 	-	
21	4. History of migraines.	atton.	
22	5. ED.		
	6. Occasional bright red	bleeding per rectum.	Taki lalormetical has been disclosed to you from records the taking to have be a stateated by Federal law. Federal
			stepsile size (-2 dBR Pad 2) prohibit you from making any
25	PROCEDURES PERFORME	D:	Check employees of it without the specific written consent of the person to whom it perteins, or as otherwise permit.
26 27	L4-5 posterior decompression	and posterior lumbar fusion.	I dies sould mediations. A general authorization for the rabitise of medical of other information in NOT sufficient for this purpose.
28	BRIEF HOSPITAL COURSE		BLACK - BLACK CERY CENTER, LL.P.
2 9	The patient tolerated the surg	ery well. His pain was well cont	trolled. He did still have some urihary
30	retention requiring straight ca	th.	• •
31			
32	He had otherwise an uneventi	ul postoperative course.	••••
33			• • •
34	LABORATORIES WHILE I		· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·
35		•	just did bladder scan post voiding before
36	discharge and is 400-cc now s	o the patient will continue self o	ath.
37 38	DISPOSITION:		
39 39	Home.		
39 40		-	
41	CONDITION ON DISCHAR	GE [.]	68.5
42	Good.		995450583
43			2a54
44	MEDICATION CHANGES I	ROM ADMISSION:	412
45	None.	1	•
46			

49		· ·	
50	CONTINUED		
51	RE: Daniel M. Finneman		
52	DATE: 01-15-2003		-
53	PAGE 2		
	DISCHARGE MEDICATIONS:	· ·	- j.
56	Fosamax 70-mg one q week times six months.		
57	Calcium 500-mg with vitamin D one three times a day with meals	s for six months.	
58	Multivitamin one q.d. for six months.		
59	Percocet 5/325-mg one to two tablets q.4-6h. p.r.n. pain.		
60	Surfak 240-mg one b.i.d.		:
61	Flexeril 10-mg one q.8h. p.r.n. pain.	· ·	
62 .			
63	DISCHARGE DIET:		
64	Regular.	•	
65			
66	DISCHARGE ACTIVITY:		
67	Please see discharge activity sheet.		
68 69	FOLLOWUP:	-	
62	FULLUWUF.		
		k and following of his wringer	ratantian
70	He is to see Dr. Templeton on 1-23-03 at 3:15 for an incision chec		
70 71	He is to see Dr. Templeton on 1-23-03 at 3:15 for an incision check and the bright red rectal bleeding that he was complaining to our h	ospitalist on admission. He	will see Dr.
70 71 72	He is to see Dr. Templeton on 1-23-03 at 3:15 for an incision chec and the bright red rectal bleeding that he was complaining to our h Teuber in his outreach office at Queen City Medical Center in Spe	ospitalist on admission. He arfish on 2-14-03 at 11:00 a.	will see Dr.
70 71 72 73	He is to see Dr. Templeton on 1-23-03 at 3:15 for an incision check and the bright red rectal bleeding that he was complaining to our h	ospitalist on admission. He arfish on 2-14-03 at 11:00 a.	will see Dr.
70 71 72 73 74	He is to see Dr. Templeton on 1-23-03 at 3:15 for an incision chec and the bright red rectal bleeding that he was complaining to our h Teuber in his outreach office at Queen City Medical Center in Spe	ospitalist on admission. He arfish on 2-14-03 at 11:00 a.	will see Dr.
70 71 72 73 74 75	He is to see Dr. Templeton on 1-23-03 at 3:15 for an incision check and the bright red rectal bleeding that he was complaining to our he Teuber in his outreach office at Queen City Medical Center in Spe begin physical therapy on 2-17-03 at 11:00 a.m. at Rehab Visions	ospitalist on admission. He arfish on 2-14-03 at 11:00 a.	will see Dr.
70 71 72 73 74	He is to see Dr. Templeton on 1-23-03 at 3:15 for an incision chec and the bright red rectal bleeding that he was complaining to our h Teuber in his outreach office at Queen City Medical Center in Spe	ospitalist on admission. He arfish on 2-14-03 at 11:00 a.	will see Dr.
70 71 72 73 74 75	He is to see Dr. Templeton on 1-23-03 at 3:15 for an incision check and the bright red rectal bleeding that he was complaining to our he Teuber in his outreach office at Queen City Medical Center in Spe begin physical therapy on 2-17-03 at 11:00 a.m. at Rehab Visions PHYSICIAN SIGNATURE:	ospitalist on admission. He arfish on 2-14-03 at 11:00 a.	will see Dr.
70 71 72 73 74 75	He is to see Dr. Templeton on 1-23-03 at 3:15 for an incision check and the bright red rectal bleeding that he was complaining to our he Teuber in his outreach office at Queen City Medical Center in Spe begin physical therapy on 2-17-03 at 11:00 a.m. at Rehab Visions PHYSICIAN SIGNATURE: DICTATED: 01-17-2003	ospitalist on admission. He arfish on 2-14-03 at 11:00 a. in Dickinson.	will see Dr.
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70 71 72 73 74 75 76 76 79 80 80 81	He is to see Dr. Templeton on 1-23-03 at 3:15 for an incision check and the bright red rectal bleeding that he was complaining to our he Teuber in his outreach office at Queen City Medical Center in Spe begin physical therapy on 2-17-03 at 11:00 a.m. at Rehab Visions PHYSICIAN SIGNATURE: DICTATED: 01-17-2003 BY: JO DETWILER, PA-C/RAYMOND L. PIERCE, M.D. 01-20-2003 AAM JOB #:38560	ospitalist on admission. He arfish on 2-14-03 at 11:00 a. in Dickinson.	will see Dr.
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Testimony of Dave MacIver President, Greater North Dakota Chamber of Commerce Presented to the Senate IBL Committee February 28, 2005



HB 1120

Mr. Chairman and members of the Senate Industry, Business and Labor Committee, my name is Dave MacIver. I am the President of the Greater North Dakota Chamber of Commerce. I am here today representing a coalition of a number of associations, many of which are in this room together with 17 chambers of commerce that speak for over 7,400 member businesses. I am here today to urge you to **support** House Bill 1120.

HB 1120 is another good example of how employers feel about caring for the injured worker and their families. The scholarship program is a great opportunity to be taken advantage of and we support this concept. The business community is pleased to see the increase in amounts available in scholarships to the spouses and dependent children.

In addressing the release of an employees social security number, the North Dakota Chamber believes this would speed up the process of helping an injured worked receive the benefits to which they are entitled.

Thank you, Chairman Mutch and members of the Senate Industry Business and Labor Committee, for this opportunity to discuss the business community's position on HB 1120. We urge a **DO PASS** for HB 1120. Thank you and I would be happy to answer any questions at this time.

2000 Schafer Street

Tollfree: 800-382-1405 Local: 701-222-0929 E-mail: ndchamber@ndchamber.com



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, en our Vision

To be an independently governed and recognized leader in providing superior workers' compensation products and services to employers, workers, and providers.

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Our Values

Excellence	Integrity
Service	Passion
Honesty	Trust
Compassion	Justice
Commitment	Financia

Integrity Passion Trust Justice Financial Stability

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Highlights States and States

- WSI is the sole administrator of the workers' compensation system in North Dakota.
- WSI was established in 1919 and exists solely to provide indemnity and medical benefits to workers injured during the course of their employment.
- WSI is not a general fund agency; rather, it collects premium each year from North Dakota employers.

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Our Mission

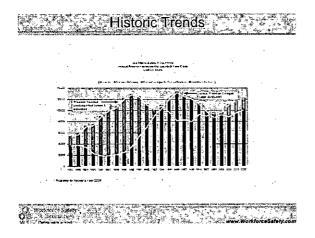
Our mission is our passion. Our passion is North Dakota's workforce. To us it's personal.



Highlights

- Premium rates are established using sound actuarial principles and are the lowest in the nation.
- Benefits, on the other hand, rank in the top two-thirds nationally.
- WSI operates with a single-line appropriation.

Workford Lafery



2005 Legislative Proposals

- Introduction of Legislative Team.
- <u>New Bill</u>
 "WSI educational revolving loan fund."
- Amendments
- 1. Changes to Guardian Scholarships.
- 2. Revamping Vocational Retraining Options.
- 3. Continuing appropriations for Safety efforts.

B. Vignalica sider. C. J. a Permanent

House Bill 1120

Sponsor...Rep. Frank Wald

Co-sponsors...Sen. Dick Dever Rep. Jim Kasper

Presented by Jodi Bjornson



HB 1120

Communication with Employers

Allows healthcare personnel to communicate directly with employers on claims of their employees.

Social Security Number Use

Allows WSI to share Social Security numbers with medical facilities.



HB 1120

Definition of Child

 Refines the definition of child under workers' compensation law.

Scholarships

Increases the maximum scholarship amounts from \$3,000 per year to \$4,000 per year for up to five years for spouses and dependent children of a worker who died as a result of a compensable work-related injury.

Winters State

HB 1120 Fiscal Note

FISCAL NOTE:

 Scholarship costs will increase; however, the increase will not have a material impact on future premium levels.

C Westerns datum

House Bill 1171 Sponsors

- Sponsor...Rep. Nancy Johnson, Vice-Chair of the House Industry, Business and Labor Committee
- Co-Sponsor...Sen. Jerry Klein, Vice-Chair of the Senate Industry, Business and Labor Committee

Presented by Tim Wahlin

Sa Warkford Safety (Based Safety (Based Safety and Safety and Safety and Safety and Safety and Safety Safety and Safety S

HB H71

- Will not take effect until Jan. 1, 2006.
- Does not affect claims prior to effective date.
- Earliest impact will occur in 2008.
- Full impact takes places in 2013.

Line vroent on a serier of the series of the

HB 1171

Capping of Temporary Total Disability Benefits

Caps temporary total disability benefits at 104 cumulative weeks and combined benefits of 364 weeks or when Maximum Medical Improvement (MMI) is reached. Currently no caps exists.

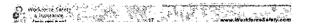
Definition of Permanent Total Disability Redefines permanent total disability (PTD) in workers' compensation law.

Constraint Start 15

Fiscal Note for HB 1471

Reserve Level Impact:

We anticipate no reserve level impact as the legislation is prospective only. Claims incurred prior to the effective date of this legislation are not impacted.



HB1171

Elective Retraining

- Allows an injured worker to decide whether to accept retraining as a vocational rehabilitation option.
- Expands coverage of temporary partial disability benefits.

Noncompliance with Vocational

Rehabilitation Appeals

This bill makes the appeal process consistent.



Fiscal Note for HB 1171

Rate Level Impact:

HB 1171 will serve to reduce long-term benefit costs for claims filed after the effective date of this legislation.

With this prospective change, it is estimated that offsets to future premium levels could range from approximately 2% to 3% (or \$2.5 million to \$3.3 million per year based on current premium levels).

Weiterer Sterr

House Bill 1119, Sponsors

Sponsor...Rep. Mark Dosch

Co-Sponsor...Senator Ralph Kilzer

Presented by Anne Green

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HB 11119

- Drug Testing of Employees
- Clarifies existing law to provide WSI the opportunity to test injured workers where drug misuse or abuse is suspected.
- WSI may suspend or discontinue benefits.
- Applies to those classes of drugs most prone to abuse or misuse.

CL Worklose Sufer, 125

HB 1119 Fiscal Note

• No significant quantifiable impact is anticipated. The drug testing provision may serve to expedite recovery and earlier returns-to-work in certain cases, resulting in some savings for those individual cases. To the extent savings occur, it will be reflected in future premium levels.

And the State

HB 1122

Third-Party Recoveries

- Creates a lien on monetary awards or settlements paid to an injured worker.
- Clarifies WSI's ability to bring a legal action to collect its share.
- Clarifies the amount of attorney fees WSI must pay when a recovery is made.
- Keeps WSI in the loop on potential settlements.

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House Bill 1122

Sponsor...Rep. Dan Ruby

Co-Sponsor...Sen. Jerry Klein

Presented by Rob Forward

C Workford American

HB 1122

Recovery of Benefits Paid

 Allows WSI to recover benefits paid to an injured worker for a claim accepted by WSI and later accepted in another state.

Workfore Selery

HB 1122 Fiscal Note

- The proposed legislation will assist WSI in collecting their share of recoveries to which the organization is entitled.
- Although not quantifiable, to the extent recoveries are increased and costs are reduced, this will be reflected in future premium levels.

House Bill 1125

Sponsor...Rep. Alan Carlson

Co-Sponsors...Sen. Karen Kresbach Rep. Don Vigesaa

Presented by Anne Green

North Cost Surger

HB 1125

Minimum Premium

 Allows changes to the minimum premium to be considered as part of the ratemaking process.

Safety Discounts

- Allows WSI to establish a discount program offering a range of discounts.
- New Safety Initiatives
- Continuing Appropriation

: HB 1125

Medical Expense Assessments

- Provides \$250 financial incentives to employers when a workplace injury is reported within 24 hours.
- Maintains \$250 assessment for injuries reported from 2 to 14 days.
- Increases the assessment to \$350 for injuries reported after 14 days.

HB (125

Optional Coverage for Children

- Simplifies the calculation of premium for employers carrying optional coverage on their children.
- Children of employers under the age of 22 → optional coverage based on actual wages paid and not at the maximum.
- Children of employers over the age of 22
 → mandatory comp coverage.

O montrarte Selette

HB 1125 Fiscal Note

No significant quantifiable impact is anticipated.

To the extent reporting lag time is reduced and the revamped safety programs results in reductions of overall claims costs, it will be reflected in future premium levels.

O Workfurt Sherry

House Bill 1123 Sponsors

Sponsor...Rep. Leroy Bernstein

7

Co-Sponsors...Rep. Frank Wald Rep. Jim Kasper

Presented by Anne Green

A Workford Safety

HB 1123

Specific Authority to Decline Coverage

- Permits WSI to decline coverage to an employer attempting to establish a new account where an outstanding premium delinquency remains unresolved.
 - Employer Penalties
- Vests discretion with the Executive Director to reduce stringent penalties on an employer's account.

O Novertices Settery

HB 1123

Independent Contractors

 Requires a person asserting independent contractor status to annually file a statement with the organization certifying that status.

Out-of-State Employer Reciprocity

 Modify the extraterritorial language to be based solely on a percentage of income per employee.

HB 1123 Fiscal Note

- Revamping the criteria and discount ranges of the existing safety discount programs to include additional incentives for improvements in timely claims reporting, reductions in claim frequency, and reductions in claim severity may serve to reduce overall claims costs.
- The waiver of the \$250 medical assessment provides an incentive for employers who report claims promptly. Studies indicate that as reporting lag time increases, claims costs rise. Based on an industry study, claims reported during the second week cost 18% more than those reported in week one; claims reported during weeks three and four cost approximately 30% more than those reported in week one.
- To the extent reporting lag time is reduced and results in reductions of overall claims costs, it will be reflected in future premium levels..

Winter State

Jays Pawn 1 3101 Memorial Hiway Mandan ND, 58554 701-663-0708

Terms of Loan

n Promissory Note # JP1-01530

Date:	Time:
Name:	l, t of
Address	Se
<u>City:</u>	Emp ID: dra
State: Zip:	on
Phone:	DOB:lice
<u>ID:</u>	Check #:
<u>Bank:</u>	
Acct #:	Approval #:

Notice to Consumer

x___ND law limits payday loans to no more than \$500 at any one time.

x____ND law limits payday loans to one 15 day renewal. The maximum term of the payday loan, including the renewal, may not exceed 45 days.

x____ND law limits the renewal fee to no more than 20% of the Amount of Loan. ND law allows additional fees if the transaction is renewed rather than paid in full when due. If renewed, any amount paid in excess of the fee applies to the payoff amount

x____A consumer privacy notice is provided with this contract.

x____The maker may rescind this transaction by the close of the following business day at no cost.

Signature

Customers Copy

By signing above, you hereby acknowledge that the information provided herein is true, correct, and accurate. You acknowledge that you have read, and understood and accept the terms and conditions of this agreement.

he undersigned, promise to pay the amount indicated in the Total Payment box to the order
Jays Pawn 1 The note must be paid on or prior to the Date Due stated below. The
rvice Charge for processing this loan is earned by the creditor at the inception of the loan
d is not refundable. I, the undersigned agree that the account from which the check is
awn will have sufficent funds on the payment Date Due. I further agree not to stop payment
the check or take any action that will result in the failure of your bank to honor the check
the payment Date Due. A \$20.00 fee may be added to any check dishonored by the
ensed provider once per customer, per year, as prescribed by North Dakota Century Code.

Full Disclosure Statement

x____A Payday Loan is a short-term loan. If you have long-term needs, another source of credit should be considered. Jays Pawn 1 will not discriminate against any applicant with respect to any aspect of a credit transaction on the basis of race, color, religion, national origin, sex, marital status, or age; or because all or part of the applicants income derives from any public assistance program; or because the applicant in good faith exercised any right under the Equal Credit Opportunity Act. Fees: 20% for 6 days. APR:1216.67%

x____No security is held as a condition of the transaction or method of collection.

f the iction is amount	Amount of Loan (Cash I received)	Service Charge (How much the loan cost me)	
act.	\$	ŝ	
/ the	Total Payment	Annual Percentage Rate	
	(The amount I have to pay back)	(APR the cost of my loan at a yearly rate)	
ation ledge that conditions	\$		
		Original Date Due	
Renewed Or	n	Final Due Date	

Jays Pawn 1 3101 Memorial Hiway Mandan ND, 58554 701-663-0708

Terms of Loan Promissory Note # JP1-01530

Date:	Time:	
Name:		
Address:		
City:	Emp ID:	
	<u>p:</u>	
Phone:	DOB:	
ID:	Check #:	
Bank:	_	
Acct #:	Approval #:	

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File Copy

Renewed On

I, the undersigned, promise to pay the amount indicated in the Total Payment box to the order of Jays Pawn 1. The note must be paid on or prior to the Date Due stated below. The Service Charge for processing this loan is earned by the creditor at the inception of the loan and is not refundable. I, the undersigned agree that the account from which the check is drawn will have sufficient funds on the payment Date Due. I further agree not to stop payment on the check or take any action that will result in the failure of your bank to honor the check on the payment Date Due. A \$20.00 fee may be added to any check dishonored by the licensed provider once per customer, per year, as prescribed by North Dakota Century Code.

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Amount of Loan (Cash Freceived)	Service Charge (How much the loan cost me)
\$	\$
Total Payment	Annual Percentage Rate
(The amount I have to pay back)	(APR the cost of my loan at a yearly rate)
<u>\$</u>	
	Original Date Due

Original Date Due Final Due Date

ATTACH #2

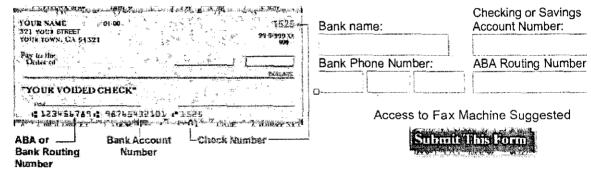
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Are You a U.S. Reside	nt and 18 and over?	
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http://www.paydayrightaway.com/formShort.asp?RefId=809323caffdata=965-092104

1/31/2005

Fill in the LAST STEP below		
City:	Social Security:	Alternate Phone:
Best Time to Contact:	How many payday loans do you currently have open?	
Choose	Choose	
About Your Employer		
City:	State:	Zip Code:
	Choose	
Supervisor Name:	Employer Phone:	



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"I needed \$1,000 fast, so I chose 1000-loan-payday. You gave me what I wanted the next day. " --Paige Stennis – Springfield, IL

"Summer driving in Chicago city traffic killed my car's air and I needed a new condenser unit. I

How 1000-Loan-Payday.com Works

IS IT REALLY FAX FREE APPROVAL? YES. "No faxing required" means just that.

Our Unique 24-7 FaxLess[™] Payday Loan Processing Totally Eliminates Faxing Forever!!

With our online 24-7 FaxLessSM processing, faxing is eliminated. FaxLessSM means that your application is completed online in minutes and you're finished/done. Our total online process gets r sending and receiving faxes-**TOTALLY**!

Payment Options

1-REFINANCE AND PAY THE FINANCE CHARGE ONLY

We will **ONLY** debit the finance charge on your loan due date **UNLESS** you notify us. Remember, this will be done **automatically** on your due date, and the funds will be de from your checking account. You do **NOT** have to do anything if you choose this option

IMPORTANT - IF YOU WANT TO DECLINE THIS OPTION AND PAY DOWN A POR OF YOUR PRINCIPAL AMOUNT OR PAY OFF THE ENTIRE LOAN, YOU MUST NC US AT (866) 539-7504 OR BY FAX AT (866) 539-7503 AT LEAST THREE FULL BUSINESS DAYS PRIOR TO YOUR DUE DATE. Remember, you will still owe you original loan amount along with another finance charge on your following payda

IMPORTANT - You may only use this option four times. On the fifth time and eac thereafter, we will debit a minimum payment of \$50 towards your principal loan balance (\$100 on balances over \$500) PLUS your finance charge until the loan is in full. You then will have to wait seven days to reactivate your loan once it is pa full.

2-PAY THE FINANCE CHARGE AND A PAYMENT TOWARDS YOUR LOAN AMOL We will only debit the finance charge due PLUS a payment towards the principal amou your loan due date. TO CHOOSE THIS OPTION, YOU MUST NOTIFY US NO LATEF

THAN THREE FULL BUSINESS DAYS PRIOR TO YOUR LOAN DUE DATE. Remem you will still owe a new finance charge PLUS your new loan balance on your following payday.

3-PAY YOUR LOAN IN FULL

We will debit the full remaining loan balance PLUS the finance charge on your due dat CHOOSE THIS OPTION, YOU MUST NOTIFY US NO LATER THAN THREE FULL

Cash Advance Loan With Online Payday Loan Application With No Credit Check And N... Page 1 of 2



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"Summer driving in Chicago city traffic killed my car's air and I needed a new condenser unit. I

Frequently Asked Questions

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HERE

With our online 24-7 FaxLessSM processing, faxing is eliminated. FaxLessSM means that your application is completed online in minutes and you're finished/done. Our total online process gets r sending and receiving faxes-**TOTALLY**!

HOW DOES THIS WORK?

Just fill out the online application for instant pre- approval. If approved, your loan proce will be deposited directly into your personal checking account by ACH. When your loa payment is due, we will automatically debit ONLY the finance charge from your checking account unless you want to pay the loan in full or other payment arrangements are made for a partial payment of your principal. Additional fees wil if you choose the option to extend your loan. This option may be used up to four times you will be required to make a payment on your principal. This will happen automatica unless you contact us for other arrangements.

WHEN WILL I GET MY MONEY?

If approved, your loan amount will be deposited into your personal checking account the business day (if approved by 6PM EST) by ACH. If you are denied, you will receive an notification. You can also call our fully automated system two hours after you complete application to check your status.

WHEN WILL I KNOW IF I AM APPROVED OR DENIED?

The approval/denial process takes minutes. If approved, you will have your money depinto your account overnight. If you are denied, you will receive an e-mail. You can also our automated system to check the status of your account

HOW MUCH IS THE FINANCE CHARGE?

The Annual Percentage Rate (APR) on a typical 14 day loan is 782.14%, which is \$30 every \$100.00 borrowed. Additional fees will apply if your loan is refinanced.

WHEN DO I HAVE TO PAY THIS BACK?

In most cases, you will have to pay ONLY the finance charge on your next payday. If y

2005 Workforce Safety & Insurance Legislative Quick Guide (as of 1/12/05) HB 1120 WSI Claims Related, Definitions, Scholarship, etc.

Sponsor: Rep. Frank Wald, Co-Sponsors: Sen. Dick Dever and Rep. Jim Kasper

Definition of Child

Refines the definition of child under workers' compensation law.

WHY - A more precise definition is needed so only children actually dependent on an injured worker for support are considered when determining entitlement to benefits.

Scholarships

Increases the maximum scholarship amounts for \$3,000 per year to \$4,000 per year for up to five years for spouses and dependent children of a worker who died as a result of a compensable work-related injury. Also increases the maximum amount that can be awarded annually in scholarships from \$150,000 to \$200,000.

WHY- The costs of school and tuition have increased.

Communication with Employers

Allows healthcare personnel to communicate directly with employers on claims of their employees PRirAcy? WHY – This provision makes it clear medical providers may communicate directly with an employer and is necessary due to HIPAA regulations.

Social Security Number Use

Allows WSI to share social security numbers with medical facilities. Current law prohibits WSI from using the social security numbers of injured workers for this purpose without permission by the injured worker.

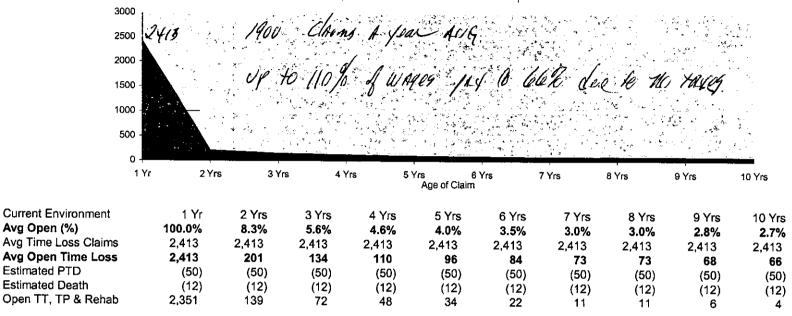
WHY - An injured worker's social security number is the most effective way to reference an injured worker when communicating with medical providers on a claim. It is usually the only guaranteed unique, matching identifier each party has in a claim.

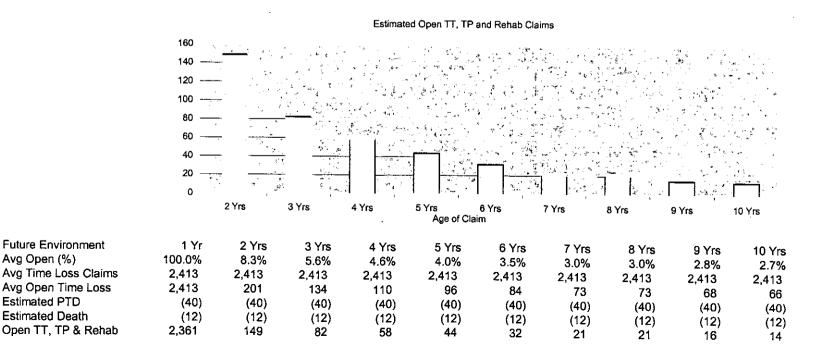
FISCAL NOTE:

Scholarship costs will increase, however, the increase will not have a material impact on future premium levels.

Average Percentage of Open Time Loss Claims

■Includes PT, Death, TT, TP and Rehab





Avg Open (%)

Estimated PTD

Estimated Death

