
**WORKERS' COMPENSATION ADVISORY COUNCIL
MINUTES ~ ~ MARCH 18, 2005 MEETING [10:00 A.M.]
HOUSE HEARING ROOM #29
LEGISLATIVE PLAZA
NASHVILLE, TENNESSEE**

The Advisory Council meeting commenced at 10:00 a.m. and a quorum of the voting members was present. Therefore, it was not necessary to conduct the meeting electronically. The following lists each member of the Advisory Council and indicates whether the member attended the meeting:

***CHAIR:** Dale Sims, State Treasurer - Present

***VOTING MEMBERS:**

Employee Representatives

Jack A. Gatlin - Present

Jerry Lee - Present

Othal Smith, Jr. - Present

Employer Representatives

Neil Nevins - Present

Bob Pitts - Present

Steven Turner - Present

***NONVOTING MEMBERS:**

Kitty Boyte [TDLA representative] - Present

Claiborne (Chip) Christian, M.D. [health care providers representative] - Absent

Jackie Dixon [TBA representative] - Present

Tony Farmer [TTLA representative] - Present

Bob Kirk [local governments representative] - Absent

Jerry Mayo [insurance companies representative] - Present

David Stout [health care providers representative] - Absent

***EX OFFICIO MEMBERS**

Senator Joe Haynes - Absent

Representative Jere Hargrove - Absent

Commissioner Paula Flowers - Absent

Commissioner Jim Neeley - Present

1. Approval of Minutes

Draft minutes for the meetings conducted on February 18, 2005 and March 4, 2005 had been sent to the members prior to the meeting for their review. No changes were requested.

ACTION: The draft minutes of the meeting on February 18, 2005 and the meeting on March 4, 2005 were unanimously approved.

2. Review of Workers' Compensation Legislation

The purpose of the meeting was to continue the review of workers' compensation legislation that had been referred to the Advisory Council by the Senate Commerce, Labor and Agriculture Committee. Sponsors of the legislation were advised of the meeting date and invited to attend if they wished to do so and the meeting was held in House Hearing Room #29 to accommodate any sponsors who wanted to attend the meeting. The following legislators appeared to discuss the identified legislation:

Rep. Susan M. Lynn (SB550 / HB1885)

Rep. Jack Sharp (SB662 / HB521)

Rep. Gary Odom (SB486 / HB477 and SB1130 / HB762)

As each bill was reached on the agenda, the Executive Director, Linda Hughes, described the effect of each proposed bill and the members discussed the bills and made comments concerning each.

The Executive Director was directed to incorporate the comments of the members into a report to the Senate Committee and to provide a draft of the report to the Advisory Council members for review prior to it being sent to the Senate Commerce, Labor and Agriculture Committee.

ACTION: A portion of the Reform Act of 2004, codified in *TCA* §50-6-121(I), provides the following concerning the Advisory Council's review of legislation: ... "The comments of the council shall not include recommendations for or against passage of the proposed legislation but shall describe the potential effects of the proposed legislation on the workers' compensation system and its operation and any other information or suggestions which the council may think helpful to the sponsors, the standing committees or the general assembly." Therefore, the members of the Advisory Council authorized its Executive Director to include in the report the summary of the present law, the proposed change in the law as a result of the bill and an explanation of the practical effect of the proposed legislation on the current workers' compensation law and system that had been prepared for the Council members by Ms. Hughes and the comments of the individual members of the Advisory Council. Therefore, no formal recommendations were made by the Advisory Council.

The meeting adjourned at approximately 3:30 p.m.