

HOUSE BILL 1795

By Mitchell

AN ACT to amend Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 50,
Chapter 6, Part 1, relative to the creation of a
special joint committee on workers' compensation.

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

SECTION 1. Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 50, Chapter 6, Part 1, is amended by adding the following language as a new section:

(a) There is created a special joint committee of the general assembly on workers' compensation issues composed of eight (8) members of the senate appointed by the speaker of the senate and eight (8) members of the house of representatives appointed by the speaker of the house of representatives.

(b) The committee shall monitor the implementation of the Workers' Compensation Reform Act of 2013 and subsequent reforms, and shall study other programs, initiatives, or topics related to the workers' compensation system as the committee deems appropriate.

(c) The committee shall prepare and submit a report to the governor and general assembly at least annually.

(d)

(1) The departments of labor and workforce development and commerce and insurance shall provide the committee with information that the committee may require.

(2) The comptroller of the treasury and the state treasurer shall provide staff support to the committee.

(e)

(1) A member of the committee may be reimbursed for the member's expenses for each day the member attends a meeting of the committee or any subcommittee in the same manner as the member is paid for attending a legislative meeting pursuant to § 3-1-106; provided, that a member shall not receive additional legislative compensation when the general assembly is in session or if the member is being paid any other payment on the same date for attendance on other state business.

(2) The committee shall elect from among the membership of the committee a chair, a vice chair, and other officers as the committee deems necessary.

(f) The committee shall promptly review and comment on any bill referred to the committee by a standing committee of the general assembly. The absence of comment by the committee shall not prohibit any standing committee from acting on a bill. The committee shall review legislation referred to the committee for comment with respect to the impact of the legislation on the following:

- (1) Accidents and workplace safety;
- (2) Adequacy of benefits;
- (3) Stability and adequacy of relevant insurance markets;
- (4) The system of claim and dispute resolution; and
- (5) Any other matter the committee deems relevant.

SECTION 2. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 50-6-134, is amended by deleting the language "deliver a report of its findings to each member of the general assembly." and by substituting instead the language "deliver a report of its findings to each member of the general assembly and the special joint committee created by section 1 of this act."

SECTION 3. This act shall take effect upon becoming a law, the public welfare requiring it.