

HOUSE BILL 1988
By Buck

AN ACT to amend Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 50, Chapter 6 and Title 56, relative to workers' compensation.

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

SECTION 1. Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 50, Chapter 6, Part 4, is amended by adding the following as a new section to be appropriately designated:

Section _____. (a) Notwithstanding any other provision of this part or of Title 56 to the contrary, the commissioner of labor is authorized to set standards by rule governing the adjustment and settlement of workers' compensation claims by insurance carriers or self-insured employers. Such standards may include, but are not limited to, standards governing contact with an employee after notice of injury has been given, the processing of claims, and procedures for making an offer of settlement.

(b) The commissioner of labor is authorized to promulgate rules and regulations to effectuate the purposes of this section. All such rules and regulations shall be promulgated in accordance with the provisions of Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 4, Chapter 5.

(c) The commissioner of labor is authorized to enforce standards adopted pursuant to this section in the same manner as and with the same authority as the commissioner of commerce and insurance possesses with respect to violations of this part and Title 56.

SECTION 2. This act shall take effect July 1, 1996, the public welfare requiring it.

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