

## **2023 Workers' Compensation Advisory Council recommendations HF2988 (Wolgamott)/SF3193 (McEwen)**

This bill adopts recommendations made by the Workers' Compensation Advisory Council (WCAC) related to: workers' compensation self-insurance; workers' compensation housekeeping and system efficiency proposals; permanent partial disability schedule updates; hospital outpatient fee schedule payments; and a Department-led study of work-related post-traumatic stress disorder.

**Article 1. Workers' Compensation Self-insurance.** Amends chapter 79A regarding procedures at the Department of Commerce related to bankruptcy of a self-insurer.

**Article 2. System efficiencies.** Amends chapter 176 to generate greater efficiencies in the workers' compensation system. This article has 10 sections, including provisions for certifying disputes at DLI and outlining a charge structure for copies of electronic medical records.

**Article 3. Permanent partial disability schedule.** Amends the permanent partial disability (PPD) schedule in chapter 176, resulting in increased payments to injured workers with permanent impairments. The amendment also requires the WCAC in 2026 and every other year thereafter to consider the adequacy of compensation for permanent impairment.

**Article 4. Hospital outpatient fee schedule.** Amends chapter 176 to provide for reductions to the hospital outpatient fee schedule over a period of three years. Repeals the provision describing the criteria that must be met for the reductions to occur.

**Article 5. Post-traumatic stress disorder study.** Requires the commissioner of DLI to conduct a study identifying systemic or regulatory changes that may improve the experience and outcomes of employees with work-related post-traumatic stress disorder. Includes a \$500,000 appropriation for the commissioner to contract with a third-party to complete part or all of the study and hire additional staff to support.

**Article 6. Housekeeping.** Amends chapter 176 to make various technical changes.