

HCS HB 1955 -- WORKERS' COMPENSATION (Dohrman)

COMMITTEE OF ORIGIN: Standing Committee on Employment Security

Beginning January 1, 2017, S corporation shareholders with at least 40% interest in the S corporation may elect to reject workers' compensation coverage by providing written notice of the rejection to the corporation and its insurer. A shareholder who rejects such coverage will not thereafter be entitled to benefits under the policy, even if serving or working in the capacity of an employee of the S corporation until such shareholder submits written notice rescinding the prior rejection of the coverage.

This bill exempts veterans' organization volunteers who are not paid wages from coverage under workers' compensation statutes.

An explanation of benefits delivered with final payment evidencing that the payment is considered to be full payment of the medical charges in a workers' compensation case will serve as a notice of dispute of the charges. Notice is to be sent through USPS by certified mail, first class mail using Intelligent Mail barcode, or some other mail tracking system.

This bill allows the Division of Workers' Compensation to continue to pay, on an ongoing basis, Second Injury Fund liabilities for physical rehabilitation payments; medical expenses for injuries to employees of uninsured employers occurring prior to January 1, 2014; and wage loss benefits for wages lost from secondary employment for injuries occurring prior to January 1, 2014, without regard to the priority of other fund liability payments.

Currently, the rating plan prohibits an adjustment to the experience modification of an employer if the total medical cost does not exceed \$1000. This bill changes that amount to 20% of the current split point of primary excess losses under the uniform experience rating plan.

The bill allows construction employers to submit payroll information to the advisory organization that makes the uniform classification system in order to calculate the premium credit under the Missouri contracting classification premium adjustment program.

This bill is similar to HB 615 (2015).