

HCS SS SB 34 -- WORKERS' COMPENSATION CLAIMS DATABASE

SPONSOR: Cunningham

COMMITTEE ACTION: Voted "Do Pass" by the Committee on Workforce Development and Workplace Safety by a vote of 9 to 2.

This substitute requires the Division of Workers Compensation within the Department of Labor and Industrial Relations to develop and maintain a workers' compensation claims database that is accessible to the public on the division's website and is searchable by an employee's name and social security number. The claims record must identify the date of the claim and whether the claim is open or closed. The records in the database will not be considered reports or records for purposes of the record retention requirements under Section 287.650, RSMo.

PROPOSERS: Supporters say that having the searchable database online will make it easier and more convenient for employers or potential employers to use.

Testifying for the bill were Senator Cunningham; Missouri Grocers' Association; and Missouri Retailers' Association.

OPPOSERS: Those who oppose the bill say that a written request currently can be made without the potential for unauthorized access to a person's social security number on the database.

Testifying against the bill was Missouri AFL-CIO.