CLIENT NEWSLETTER



April 18, 2013



Various Texas legislative committees have recently approved 6 workers' compensation bills. There are several other bills still sitting in committees. Caution: these bills have not yet become law and still must pass several other levels before they can become law. The bills that were approved by the committees were:

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House Bill 1833. Texas Mutual Insurance becomes a fully private (domestic) insurance carrier, and the commissioner establishes an assigned risk program since Texas Mutual would no longer be the carrier of last resort. Carriers would share in the responsibility to provide workers' compensation coverage to the residual market of employers.

House Bill 2787. Carriers will be liable for attorney fees to claimants' attorneys if the claimants win at judicial review of a medical necessity dispute.

House Bill 1424. First responders can sue their government employers for retaliation involving workers' compensation. This bill allows waiver of sovereign/governmental immunity.

House Bill 1762. If a temporary employment company has a certificate of insurance coverage, the certificate will serve as proof of coverage for the temporary employment company and the client company.

House Bill 287. Allows parties to discover the identity of doctors involved in an independent review organization determination.

House Bill 1155. Allows insurance carriers to suspend all income benefits for claimants who do not attend designated doctor examinations. The current law only allows the carrier to suspend temporary income benefits.

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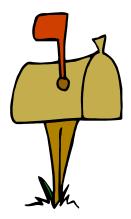
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QUESTIONS? COMMENTS? Have questions or comments about any of the stories in the newsletter or general questions about a workers' compensation matter? Drop us a line at <u>questions@rickydgreen.com</u>, or give us a call at (512) 280-0055. We look forward to handling all of your workers' compensation needs.

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