

**Minutes**  
**Labor-Management Advisory Council Telephone Conference**  
**February 10, 2017**

**Advisory Council and Subcommittee members present:**

Al Smith, Montana Trial Lawyers Association (proxy for Don until he joined the meeting via telephone)

Larry Jones, Montana Self-Insureds Association

Lance Zanto, Workers' Compensation Management Bureau

**Advisory Council and Subcommittee members via telephone:**

Bill Dahlgren, Sun Mountain Sports

Doug Buman, Laborers' International Union of North America

Don Judge, Injured Workers Resource Council

Kevin Braun, Montana State Fund

Jim Larson, Teamsters Local 190

Annette Hoffman, St. Vincent Hospital

**Others Present:**

Bill Wheeler, ERD Claims Assistance Bureau Chief

Jason Swant, Project Manager

Mark Cadwallader, Legal Counsel Department of Labor and Industry (via telephone)

**I.** Welcome and introductions

**II.** The minutes from the February 3, 2017 meeting and the agenda were approved when Don Judge joined the meeting via telephone and a quorum was met.

**III. 2017 Workers' Compensation Legislation – Bill Wheeler**

**Introduced bills monitored:**

**SB 229:** Allowing worker to choose treating physician in workers' compensation cases – Tabled

**HB 346:** Designate fiscal agent as employer for workers' compensation insurance. A hearing was held February 7, 2017.

**HB 358:** Revise workers' compensation laws pertaining to release of information. A hearing is scheduled for February 15, 2017.

**HB 395:** Require PSC approval of certain hospital charges. Discussion included the medical fee schedule and reimbursement rates. Larry Jones volunteered to represent self-insureds and raise these issues at the hearing. Lt. Governor Mike Cooney will also bring them to the attention at the Administrations meeting on Monday February 13, 2017.

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**HB 409:** Restrict opioid prescriptions. Referred to committee

**SB 116:** Disallowing workers' compensation benefits for certain false statements. Transmitted to the House.

**SB 142:** Revise laws related to volunteer emergency personnel and worker's comp insurance. Referred to committee February 8, 2017

**SB 184:** Revise workers compensation to allow termination of payments due to fraud. A hearing was held February 10, 2017

**LC 2404:** Revise the definition of wages in workers' compensation insurance. An LMAC motion to oppose the bill failed.

**Other Matters:**

Senator Jeffrey Wellborn has agreed to sponsor for the Drug Formulary bill.

**Public Comment**

No Public Comment

**Next Steps**

The meeting adjourned