

ENROLLED HOUSE  
BILL NO. 1721

By: Hamilton, Steidley and  
Glover of the House

and

Haney and Hobson of the  
Senate

An Act relating to workers' compensation; directing the Attorney General to expend monies from the Workers' Compensation Fraud Unit Revolving Fund for certain purposes; authorizing a full-time-equivalent employee for certain purpose; creating the Workers' Compensation Fraud Advisory Council; specifying membership, powers and duties; authorizing the Attorney General to conduct certain study; requiring report; making appropriations to the Workers' Compensation Court; stating the purposes; providing control over expenditures; providing an effective date; and declaring an emergency.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF OKLAHOMA:

SECTION 1. The Attorney General shall expend no more than One Hundred Thousand Dollars (\$100,000.00) from the Workers' Compensation Fraud Unit Revolving Fund for the employment of two (2) additional workers' compensation fraud investigators.

SECTION 2. The Attorney General is hereby authorized one (1.0) additional full-time-equivalent employee in order to employ an attorney for the purpose of prosecuting incidents of workers' compensation fraud.

SECTION 3. The Attorney General shall expend no more than One Hundred Thousand Dollars (\$100,000.00) from the Workers' Compensation Fraud Unit Revolving Fund for a study of workers' compensation fraud as provided for in Section 4 of this act.

SECTION 4. A. There is hereby created until January 1, 1996, the Workers' Compensation Fraud Advisory Council. The Council shall be composed of:

1. One member to be appointed by the President Pro Tempore of the Senate who shall be one of the Senate appointees to the Board of Managers of the State Insurance Fund;

2. One member to be appointed by the Speaker of the House of Representatives who shall be one of the House of Representatives appointees to the Board of Managers of the State Insurance Fund;

3. The Director of State Finance; and

4. The Attorney General of the State of Oklahoma.

B. Members of the Council shall serve without compensation but members who are not employees of this state shall be reimbursed for their actual and necessary travel expenses by the State Insurance Fund in accordance with the State Travel Reimbursement Act, Section 500.1 et seq. of Title 74 of the Oklahoma Statutes. Members of the Council who are employees of this state shall be reimbursed for

their actual and necessary travel expenses pursuant to the State Travel Reimbursement Act for any meetings or hearings of the Council not held in Oklahoma City.

C. It shall be the duty of the Council to assist and oversee the conduct of the study authorized in subsection D of this section. The Council may suggest issues which the study is to encompass. The Oklahoma Attorney General shall provide such staff support as is required by the Council.

D. The Attorney General of the State of Oklahoma is hereby authorized to conduct a study of workers' compensation fraud in the State of Oklahoma. The study shall assess the extent of workers' compensation fraud in Oklahoma. The Attorney General, with input from the Advisory Council, shall hire such consultants as are necessary to complete the study.

E. The Council shall provide results of the study to the President Pro Tempore of the Senate, the Speaker of the House of Representatives and the Governor by January 1, 1996.

SECTION 5. There is hereby appropriated to the Workers' Compensation Court from any monies not otherwise appropriated from the Workers' Compensation Administration Fund of the State Treasury for the fiscal year ending June 30, 1994, the sum of Two Hundred Twenty-seven Thousand Nine Hundred Eighty-eight Dollars (\$227,988.00) or so much thereof as may be necessary to annualize the six (6.0) full-time-equivalent employees authorized in the provisions of Enrolled House Bill No. 1002 of the 2nd Extraordinary Session of the 44th Oklahoma Legislature.

SECTION 6. There is hereby appropriated to the Workers' Compensation Court from any monies not otherwise appropriated from the General Revenue Fund of the State Treasury for the fiscal year ending June 30, 1996, the sum of Three Hundred Thirty-three Thousand Seven Hundred Fifty-nine Dollars (\$333,759.00) or so much thereof as may be necessary to perform the duties imposed upon the Workers' Compensation Court by law.

SECTION 7. There is hereby appropriated to the Workers' Compensation Court from any monies not otherwise appropriated from the Workers' Compensation Administration Fund of the State Treasury for the fiscal year ending June 30, 1996, the sum of Three Million Five Hundred Seven Thousand Nine Hundred Six Dollars (\$3,507,906.00) or so much thereof as may be necessary to perform the duties imposed upon the Workers' Compensation Court by law.

SECTION 8. Appropriations made by this act for the operations of the Workers' Compensation Court, not including appropriations made for capital outlay purposes, may be budgeted for the fiscal year ending June 30, 1996 (hereafter FY-96) or may be budgeted for the fiscal year ending June 30, 1997 (hereafter FY-97). Funds budgeted for FY-96 may be encumbered only through June 30, 1996, and must be expended by November 15, 1996. Any funds remaining after November 15, 1996, and not budgeted for FY-97, shall lapse to the credit of the proper fund for the then current fiscal year. Funds budgeted for FY-97 may be encumbered only through June 30, 1997. Any funds remaining after November 15, 1997, shall lapse to the credit of the proper fund for the then current fiscal year. These appropriations may not be budgeted in both fiscal years simultaneously. Funds budgeted in FY-96, and not required to pay obligations for that fiscal year, may be budgeted for FY-97, after the Workers' Compensation Court has prepared and submitted a budget work program revision removing these funds from the FY-96 budget work program and after such revision has been approved by the Office of State Finance.

SECTION 9. This act shall become effective July 1, 1995.

SECTION 10. It being immediately necessary for the preservation of the public peace, health and safety, an emergency is hereby declared to exist, by reason whereof this act shall take effect and be in full force from and after its passage and approval.

Passed the House of Representatives the 10th day of May, 1995.

Speaker of the House of  
Representatives

Passed the Senate the 10th day of May, 1995.

President of the Senate