

STATE OF OKLAHOMA

1st Session of the 47th Legislature (1999)

SENATE BILL NO. 511

By: Campbell

AS INTRODUCED

An Act relating to workers' compensation; amending 85 O.S. 1991, Section 26, as amended by Section 30, Chapter 1, 2nd Extraordinary Session, O.S.L. 1994 (85 O.S. Supp. 1998, Section 26), which relates to procedures of the Workers' Compensation Court and the court administrator; clarifying language.

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

SECTION 1. AMENDATORY 85 O.S. 1991, Section 26, as amended by Section 30, Chapter 1, 2nd Extraordinary Session, O.S.L. 1994 (85 O.S. Supp. 1998, Section 26), is amended to read as follows:

Section 26. A. The Administrator shall provide printed notice forms to be used by the injured employee.

B. Notice of injury filed by the employee with the Administrator shall be verified subject to the laws of perjury of this state and shall be styled: In re: Claim of ~~the~~ _____ (the name of the employee) and shall include in addition to any other requirements the following information:

1. The name and social security number of the employee;
2. The name of the employer;
3. The judicial district of the county of residence of the employee at the time of the injury;
4. The address of the principal place of business of the employer;
5. The judicial district of the county where the injury occurred; and

6. The judicial district of the county where the injured employee wants the claim docketed.

~~B.~~ C. Any time after the expiration of the first three (3) days of disability on the part of the injured employee, a claim for compensation may be presented to the Administrator.

D. If the employer and the injured employee ~~shall~~ reach a final agreement ~~as to~~ regarding the facts ~~with relation~~ relating to an injury, and the resulting disability for which compensation is claimed under the Workers' Compensation Act, a memorandum of ~~such~~ the agreement, in a form ~~as~~ prescribed by the Administrator, signed by both the employer and employee, and approved by the Court, shall be filed by the employer with the Administrator. In the absence of fraud this agreement shall be deemed binding upon the parties ~~thereto~~. ~~Such~~ The agreement shall be approved by the Court only when the terms conform to the provisions of the Workers' Compensation Act.

E. The Court shall have full power and authority to determine all questions in relation to payment of claims for compensation under the provisions of the Workers' Compensation Act. The Court shall make, or cause to be made, ~~such~~ an investigation as it deems necessary, ~~and upon~~.

F. Upon application of either party, the Court shall order a hearing, and as soon as practicable, after a claim for compensation is submitted under this section, or ~~such~~ the hearing closed, shall make or deny an award determining ~~such~~ the claim for compensation, and file the same in the office of the Administrator, together with the statement of its conclusion of fact and rulings of law. Upon a hearing pursuant to this section either party may present evidence and be represented by counsel. The decision of the Court shall be final as to all questions of fact, and except as provided in Section 3.6 of this title, as to all questions of law.

~~C.~~ G. A good faith effort shall be made on the part of any insurance carrier, the State Insurance Fund, or group self-insured plan to notify an insured employer of the possibility of, and~~or~~ terms of, any settlement of a workers' compensation case pursuant to this section. Written comments or objections to settlements shall be filed with the Workers' Compensation Court and periodically shared with the management of the applicable insurer. A written notice shall be made to all policyholders of their right to a good faith effort by their insurer to notify them of any proposed settlement, if the policyholder so chooses.

SECTION 2. This act shall become effective November 1, 1999.

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