

BILL SUMMARY
2nd Session of the 52nd Legislature

Bill No.:	HB2652
Version:	2nd CCS
Author:	Representative Sullivan
	Senator Sykes
Date:	5/26/2010
Impact:	Potential Cost Savings

Bill Summary

Research Analyst: Arnella Karges

The 2nd Conference Committee Substitute (2CCS) for HB2652, restores the Title on the measure and amends the composition of the Workers' Compensation Court (OWCC) to be eight judges, instead of ten, requiring five of the judges to be permanently assigned to Oklahoma City and three of the judges to be permanently assigned to Tulsa.

The 2CCS expands the terms of the OWCC judges to be eight years, instead of the current six-year terms. OWCC judges shall be eligible to reapply to serve on the court for an additional term, after at least three years have passed. The 2CCS allows judges currently serving on the OWCC to be eligible for an initial 8-year term upon expiration of their current term.

The 2CCS requires the advice and consent of the Senate for gubernatorial nominations to the OWCC. If the Senate fails to confirm within 90 days, the Governor is authorized to select from the two remaining nominees or request additional nominees from the Judicial Nominating Commission. Supreme Court appointments will also require the approval of the Senate.

The 2CCS requires OWCC judges to have at least five years of workers' compensation experience prior to appointment.

The 2CCS prohibits the closing of the Tulsa Workers' Compensation Court without the approval of the Legislature.

Fiscal Summary

Fiscal Analyst: Marilyn Anderson

The 2nd CCS for HB2652 decreases the number of judges the Workers' Compensation Court from ten to eight; permanently assigns five judges to the Oklahoma City Workers' Compensation Court and three judges to the Tulsa Workers' Compensation Court; modifies expiration dates of terms of certain judges; increases terms of judges from six years to eight years; authorizes additional term after waiting period; modifies procedures for filling judicial vacancies; requires Senate confirmation of judicial appointments; requires judges to have at least five years of workers' compensation experience prior to appointment; and prohibits closure of the Tulsa Workers' Compensation Court.

Fiscal Analysis

The 2nd CCR for HB2652 has the potential for cost savings when fully implemented.

Long Term Fiscal Considerations

None

Fiscal Analysis Reviewed By:

Janice Buchanan

House Fiscal Director