

Bill Summary
1st Session of the 59th Legislature

Bill No.:	HB 2375
Version:	CS
Request No.:	2115
Author:	Sen. R. Thompson
Date:	04/11/2023

Bill Analysis

HB 2375 adjusts various compensation rates for injuries occurring on or after the date of the adjustment and details beneficiary priority among surviving relatives. The measure requires any claims for travel reimbursement to be made within 1 year of the travel with reimbursement being issued within 60 days of the receipt of request. Additionally, the measure expands “physically impaired person” to include loss of use of more than 35% of a member of the body proven by objective medical evidence and removes the requirement that only the disability due to an injury to the body as a whole at a subsequent employer shall be combinable with a prior body disability as it relates to eligibility to claim benefits from the Multiple Injury Trust Fund. The measure modifies procedures relating to proposed judgements submitted by the Oklahoma Workers’ Compensation Commission declaring an employer to be in violation of the Administrative Workers’ Compensation Act. The measure eliminates language providing that the proposed judgement shall not be subject to review by another court unless the employer shows good cause why it did not timely contest the judgment or penalty. The measure provides that if the employer objects to the proposed judgment and requests a hearing, the Commission must prove by a preponderance of evidence each and every allegation of law and fact contained in the proposed judgment.

The measure modifies the date used when filing for a claim by specifying that the date of injury for cumulative trauma shall be the last date of injurious exposure prior to the filing date of the Employee’s First Notice of Claim for Compensation. The measure requires employees and employers requesting an independent medical examiner to file for such a request within 15 days of the receipt of the recommendation for surgery. The Commission shall set a request for an independent medical examiner that is timely filed on an accelerated prehearing docket within 10 days of the filing. The appointment with the independent medical examiner regarding the reasonableness and necessity of a recommended surgery shall occur within 30 days of the appointment. The measure also extends the operations and term of the incumbent judge of the Workers' Compensation Court of Existing Claims until July 1, 2027.

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