

GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA
SESSION 2009

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SENATE BILL 781

Short Title: Workers' Comp/Choice of Physician. (Public)

Sponsors: Senators Berger of Franklin; Atwater, Bingham, Boseman, Dannelly, Davis, Dorsett, Forrester, Goss, Graham, Jones, Kinnaird, Malone, McKissick, Nesbitt, Purcell, Queen, Shaw, Snow, Soles, Stein, Vaughan, and Weinstein.

Referred to: Commerce.

March 25, 2009

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT TO HONOR THE PATIENT'S CHOICE OF A PHYSICIAN WHEN THE PATIENT IS AN EMPLOYEE ENTITLED TO COMPENSATION UNDER THE WORKERS' COMPENSATION ACT.

The General Assembly of North Carolina enacts:

SECTION 1. G.S. 97-25 reads as rewritten:

"§ 97-25. **Medical treatment and supplies.**

Medical compensation shall be provided by the employer. An injured employee may select a physician of the employee's own choosing to attend, prescribe, and assume the care and charge of his or her case. In case of a controversy arising between the employer and employee relative to the continuance of medical, surgical, hospital, or other treatment, the Industrial Commission may order such further treatments as may in the discretion of the Commission be necessary.

The Commission may at any time upon the request of an employee order a change of treatment and designate other treatment suggested by the injured employee subject to the approval of the Commission, and in such a case the expense thereof shall be borne by the employer upon the same terms and conditions as hereinbefore provided in this section for medical and surgical treatment and attendance.

The refusal of the employee to accept any medical, hospital, surgical or other treatment or rehabilitative procedure when ordered by the Industrial Commission shall bar said employee from further compensation until such refusal ceases, and no compensation shall at any time be paid for the period of suspension unless in the opinion of the Industrial Commission the circumstances justified the refusal, in which case, the Industrial Commission may order a change in the medical or hospital service.

If in an emergency on account of the employer's failure to provide the medical or other care as herein specified a physician other than provided by the employer is called to treat the injured employee, the reasonable cost of such service shall be paid by the employer if so ordered by the Industrial Commission.

~~Provided, however, if he so desires, an injured employee may select a physician of his own choosing to attend, prescribe and assume the care and charge of his case, subject to the approval of the Industrial Commission."~~

SECTION 2. This act is effective when it becomes law and applies to any injury, as defined by G.S. 97-2, that occurs on or after that date.

