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The original instrument and the following digest, which constitutes no part of the legislative instrument, were prepared by Senate Legislative Services. The keyword, summary, and digest do not constitute part of the law or proof or indicia of legislative intent. [R.S. 1:13(B) and 24:177(E)]

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DIGEST

SB 162 Original

2026 Regular Session

Seabaugh

Present law provides that a medical treatment schedule is to be used in the medical care, services, and treatment in workers' compensation matters.

Present law provides that the medical treatment schedule is to be based on guidelines which meet all of the following criteria:

- (1) Rely on specified, comprehensive, and ongoing systematic medical literature review.
- (2) Contain published criteria for rating studies and for determining the overall strength of the medical evidence, including the size of the sample, whether the authors and researchers had any financial interest in the product or service being studied, the design of the study and identification of any bias, and the statistical significance of the study.
- (3) Are current and the most recent version produced, which means that documented evidence can be produced or verified that the guideline was developed, reviewed, or revised within the previous five years.
- (4) Are interdisciplinary and address the frequency, duration, intensity, and appropriateness of treatment procedures and modalities for all disciplines commonly performing treatment of employment-related injuries and diseases.
- (5) Are, by statute or rule, adopted by any other state regarding medical treatment for workers' compensation injuries, diseases, or conditions.

Present law provides that a dispute as to whether recommended care, services, or treatment is in accordance with the medical treatment schedule, or whether a variance from the medical treatment schedule is reasonably required, may be appealed within 15 calendar days to the office of workers' compensation administration medical director or associate medical director.

Present law provides that any party may appeal the decision of the medical director or associate medical director by filing a "Disputed Claim for Compensation" form provided by the La. Workforce Commission within 45 days of the date of the issuance of the decision.

Present law further provides that the medical director or the associate medical director's decision may be overturned by clear and convincing evidence that the decision was not in accordance with law.

Proposed law retains present law but provides that only the evidence reviewed by the medical

director or associate medical director will be admissible on appeal.

Effective August 1, 2026.

(Amends R.S. 23:1203.1(K))