

2026 Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 1023

BY REPRESENTATIVE MENA

WORKERS COMPENSATION: Provides with respect to the selection of vocation rehabilitation counselors

1 AN ACT

2 To amend and reenact R.S. 23:1226(B)(3)(a), relative to the rehabilitation of injured
3 employees; to provide a selection process for vocational rehabilitation counselors;
4 to provide for a dispute process for certain issues regarding the vocational
5 rehabilitation counselor; and to provide for related matters.

6 Be it enacted by the Legislature of Louisiana:

7 Section 1. R.S. 23:1226(B)(3)(a) is hereby amended and reenacted to read as
8 follows:

9 §1226. Rehabilitation of injured employees

10 * * *

11 B.

12 * * *

13 (3)(a) The employer shall be responsible for the selection of a licensed
14 professional vocational rehabilitation counselor to evaluate and assist the employee
15 in his job placement or vocational training. The employer or employee may request
16 vocational services from the office of workers' compensation administration through
17 a process determined by the assistant secretary. Upon request, the assistant secretary
18 shall appoint a vocational rehabilitation counselor from a list of counselors compiled
19 by the assistant secretary. ~~Should the employer refuse to provide these services, or~~
20 If a dispute arises concerning regarding the work of the vocational rehabilitation

Present law provides that the employee shall have a right to an expedited summary proceeding pursuant to present law (R.S. 23:1201.1(K)(8)). Present law also provides a detailed procedural process for the selection of the hearing date and the process for notifying all applicable parties of the hearing date.

Proposed law retains present law.

(Amends R.S. 23:1226(B)(3)(a))