
DIGEST

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HB 1023 Original

2026 Regular Session

Mena

Abstract: Provides relative to the selection of vocational rehabilitation counselors in workers' compensation cases.

Present law states that the employer shall be responsible for selecting a licensed professional vocational rehabilitation counselor for the purpose of evaluating and assisting the employee in his job placement or vocational training.

Proposed law instead allows the employer or employee to request vocational services from the office of workers' compensation (OWCA) through a process determined by the assistant secretary. Proposed law further provides that, upon request, the assistant secretary shall appoint a vocational rehabilitation counselor from a list of counselors compiled by the assistant secretary.

Present law allows the employee to file a claim with the OWCA if the employer refuses to provide services, or if a dispute arises concerning the work of the vocational counselor. Present law further provides that the OWCA shall review the need for the services or the quality of the services being provided.

Proposed law removes language that allows the employee to file a claim if the employer refuses to provide services. Proposed law otherwise retains present law.

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))