

SB 700 -- WORKERS' COMPENSATION

SPONSOR: Schatz

COMMITTEE ACTION: Voted "Do Pass" by the Standing Committee on Workforce Standards and Development by a vote of 7 to 0. Voted "Do Pass" by the Select Committee on Labor and Industrial Relations by a vote of 9 to 0.

Currently, the uniform experience rating plan of workers' compensation insurance prohibits an adjustment to the experience modification of an employer if the total medical cost does not exceed \$1,000, the employer pays all of the medical costs, there is no lost time, with some exceptions, from employment, and no claim is filed. This bill changes the medical cost maximum to 20% of the current split point of primary and excess losses under the uniform experience rating plan.

Additionally, this bill provides that, for purposes of calculating the premium credit under the Missouri contracting classification premium adjustment program, an employer within the construction group of code classifications may submit to the advisory organization the required payroll record information for all calendar quarters of the year prior to the workers' compensation policy start or renewal date, provided the employer clearly indicates for which quarter the payroll information is being submitted.

PROPOSERS: Supporters say that everyone wins with this change to workers' compensation law. Employers would be able to pay more medical costs, whereas now the cap is \$1,000. This keeps workers' compensation costs down and it gets employees back to work more quickly. It is also important for payroll records to be able to be reviewed in all four calendar quarters rather than only in the third quarter.

Testifying for the bill were Senator Schatz; Site Improvement; American Subcontractors Association, Midwest Council; and the Missouri Chamber Of Commerce and Industry.

OPPOSERS: There was no opposition voiced to the committee.