



General Assembly

January Session, 2003

Committee Bill No. 380

LCO No. 3022

Referred to Committee on Labor and Public Employees

Introduced by:
(LAB)

***AN ACT REQUIRING WORKERS' COMPENSATION RESPONDENTS
TO REQUEST CERTAIN INFORMAL HEARINGS.***

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Assembly convened:

1 Section 1. Section 31-297a of the general statutes is repealed and the
2 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2003*):

3 (a) In any informal hearing held by the commissioner or chairman
4 of the Workers' Compensation Commission in regard to compensation
5 under the provisions of this chapter, any recommendations made by
6 the commissioner or chairman at the informal hearing shall be reduced
7 to writing and, if the parties accept such recommendations, the
8 recommendations shall be as binding upon both parties as an award
9 by the commissioner or chairman. The commissioner or chairman shall
10 not postpone any such informal hearing if one party fails to attend
11 unless both parties agree to the postponement.

12 (b) Upon receipt of a medical evaluation of a claimant's permanent
13 partial or total disability, each respondent to a workers' compensation
14 claim shall provide a copy of such evaluation to the Workers'
15 Compensation Commission not later than thirty days after receiving

16 such evaluation and request an informal hearing on the issue of
17 disability.

18 (c) Not later than one year after surgery has been performed on a
19 claimant that could result in an award of benefits under subsection (c)
20 of section 31-308 for a permanent, significant disfigurement or scar,
21 each respondent to a workers' compensation claim shall request an
22 informal hearing for an evaluation of the disfigurement or scar.

This act shall take effect as follows:	
Section 1	October 1, 2003

Statement of Purpose:

To ensure that workers' compensation claimants, especially pro se claimants, receive the benefits to which they are entitled under the Workers' Compensation Act.

[Proposed deletions are enclosed in brackets. Proposed additions are indicated by underline, except that when the entire text of a bill or resolution or a section of a bill or resolution is new, it is not underlined.]

Co-Sponsors: SEN. LOONEY, 11th Dist.