

Regular Session, 2013

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 129

BY SENATOR CORTEZ

WORKERS' COMPENSATION. Requests that the medical advisory council within the office of workers' compensation meet and reformulate the medical treatment schedule to address the need for injured workers to have access to routine physician office visits as well as uninterrupted prescribed action therapy treatment.

1 A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

2 To urge and request the medical advisory council within the office of workers' compensation  
3 in the Louisiana Workforce Commission to meet and formulate guidelines to address  
4 the injured workers' need for routine physician office visits as well as formulate  
5 guidelines to address the interruption in prescribed action therapy treatment for  
6 injured workers.

7 WHEREAS, the Legislature of Louisiana enacted Act No. 254 of the 2009 Regular  
8 Session, which created the medical advisory council within the office of workers'  
9 compensation in the Louisiana Workforce Commission; and

10 WHEREAS, the medical advisory council was charged with developing a treatment  
11 schedule whereby injured workers, who are entitled to workers' compensation benefits,  
12 would receive certain medical treatment for their injuries based upon the treatments  
13 prescribed by the medical treatment schedule; and

14 WHEREAS, the medical advisory council produced a medical treatment schedule  
15 in 2011 and the schedule became applicable to all medical treatment which is owed to  
16 injured workers beginning 2011; and

17 WHEREAS, the legislature required that the medical treatment "be developed by the  
18 conscientious, explicit, and judicious use of current best evidence in making decisions about

1 the care of individual patients, integrating clinical expertise, which is the proficiency and  
2 judgment that clinicians acquire through clinical experience and clinical practice, with the  
3 best available external clinical evidence from systematic research"; and

4 WHEREAS, the medical treatment schedule does not address the necessity of routine  
5 physician office visits, also known as evaluation managements; and

6 WHEREAS, patients are being denied basic medical care and routine physician  
7 office visits by some workers' compensation insurance companies who deny the claims  
8 because such visits are not specifically provided for in the medical treatment schedule; and

9 WHEREAS, patients are being denied adequate access to action therapy because the  
10 medical treatment guidelines allow for interruption of treatment and delays in receiving  
11 subsequent action therapy, resulting in a delay to return to work for many injured workers.

12 THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby  
13 urge and request the medical advisory council within the office of workers' compensation  
14 in the Louisiana Workforce Commission to meet and formulate guidelines to address the  
15 injured workers' need for routine physician office visits as well as formulate guidelines to  
16 address the interruption in prescribed action therapy treatment for injured workers.

17 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the medical advisory council within the office  
18 of workers' compensation in the Louisiana Workforce Commission report to the Senate  
19 Committee on Labor and Industrial Relations and the House Committee on Labor and  
20 Industrial Relations the reformulated guidelines no later than September 1, 2013.

21 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to the  
22 medical advisory council within the office of workers' compensation in the Louisiana  
23 Workforce Commission.

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The original instrument and the following digest, which constitutes no part  
of the legislative instrument, were prepared by Carla S. Roberts.

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DIGEST

Cortez

SCR No. 129

Requests the medical advisory council within the office of workers' compensation in the Louisiana Workforce Commission to meet and formulate guidelines to address the injured workers' need for routine physician office visits as well as formulate guidelines to address the interruption in prescribed action therapy treatment for injured workers.

Provides that the medical advisory council report to the Senate Committee on Labor and

Industrial Relations and the House Committee on Labor and Industrial Relations the reformulated guidelines no later than September 1, 2013.