
A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO WORKERS' COMPENSATION.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF HAWAII:

1 SECTION 1. The purpose of this Act is to expedite the
2 diagnosis of, and streamline medical treatment for, serious
3 injuries to the cervical or lumbar spine that could result in
4 paralysis for injuries sustained by an employee while working.

5 SECTION 2. Chapter 386, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is
6 amended by adding a new section to be appropriately designated
7 and to read as follows:

8 "§386- Cervical and lumbar spinal injuries; treatment
9 plan not required. During the first sixty days after an injury,
10 an employee may obtain the following medical care or services
11 without a treatment plan:

12 (1) One magnetic resonance imaging of the cervical spine
13 if the employee's attending physician determines that:

14 (A) The employee has objective indicia of radicular
15 symptoms and the radicular symptoms reasonably
16 could be caused by injury to the cervical spine;

17 or



1 (B) The employee has objective traumatic injury or
2 other neurologic symptoms to the cervical spine
3 shown by an x-ray or computed tomography scan;

4 (2) One magnetic resonance imaging of the lumbar spine if
5 the employee's attending physician determines that:

6 (A) The employee has objective indicia of radicular
7 symptoms and the radicular symptoms reasonably
8 could be caused by injury to the lumbar spine; or

9 (B) The employee has objective traumatic injury or
10 other neurologic symptoms to the lumbar spine
11 shown by an x-ray or computed tomography scan;

12 and

13 (3) One consultation with an orthopedic or neurologic
14 specialist if the employee's attending physician
15 reasonably determines that the opinion or advice of an
16 orthopedic or neurologic specialist should be obtained
17 for the evaluation and treatment of the employee's
18 injury; provided that:

19 (A) The orthopedic or neurologic specialist shall
20 provide written notice of the consultation to the



1 employer within seven days of the consultation;
2 and
3 (B) The orthopedic or neurologic specialist shall
4 provide a written report to the employer within
5 fourteen days of the consultation."

6 SECTION 3. New statutory material is underscored.

7 SECTION 4. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 2024.



Report Title:

Workers' Compensation; Cervical and Lumbar Spinal Injuries;
Coverage; MRI; Specialists

Description:

Authorizes certain types of radiographical coverage and specialist consultations without a treatment plan within the context of workers' compensation coverage for employees with cervical and lumbar spinal injuries, or suspected cervical and lumbar spinal injuries. (CD1)

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