

Regular Session, 2012

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 133

BY REPRESENTATIVE BROADWATER

A RESOLUTION

To urge and request the Workers' Compensation Advisory Council to study reemployment and retraining programs for injured workers, to project the amount of funding that is needed, to look for sources of funding, and to report its findings to the House Committee on Labor and Industrial Relations no later than December 31, 2012.

WHEREAS, the return of an injured employee to the workforce as soon as possible is beneficial for both the worker and employer; and

WHEREAS, the retraining and reemployment of an injured employee who, due to an injury, is no longer able to perform the duties for which he was trained is imperative; and

WHEREAS, the longer an injured worker is out of the workforce, the more likely he is to remain out of the workforce indefinitely; and

WHEREAS, on March 29, 2012, Representative Broadwater proposed House Bill No. 360 to the House Committee on Labor and Industrial Relations which would have created the Injured Employee Reemployment and Retraining Fund; and

WHEREAS, although most parties were in agreement with the concept, many believe it is cost prohibitive; and

WHEREAS, funding sources that involve federal match dollars are available to the Louisiana Workforce Commission for various programs such as Louisiana Rehabilitative Services and the Second Injury Fund; and

WHEREAS, an injured worker reemployment and retraining program could be funded with the help of the federal dollars; and

WHEREAS, the Workers' Compensation Advisory Council is statutorily created by R.S. 23:1294 and charged with monitoring and reporting to the governor and the legislature the implementation and administration of workers' compensation claims and related issues; and

WHEREAS, the director of the office of workers' compensation administration of the Louisiana Workforce Commission is the chairman of the Workers' Compensation Advisory Council; and

WHEREAS, it is appropriate that the Workers' Compensation Advisory Council study the feasibility of creating reemployment and retraining programs for injured workers.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the House of Representatives of the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby urge and request the Workers' Compensation Advisory Council to study reemployment and retraining programs for injured workers, to project the amount of funding that is needed, to look for sources of funding, and to report its findings to the House Committee on Labor and Industrial Relations no later than December 31, 2012.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to the Louisiana Workforce Commission.

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SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES