

44-516. Medical examination by neutral health care provider. (a) In case of a dispute as to the injury, the director, in the director's discretion, or upon request of either party, may employ one or more neutral health care providers, not exceeding three in number, who shall be of good standing and ability. The health care providers shall make such examinations of the injured employee as the director may direct. The report of any such health care provider shall be considered by the administrative law judge in making the final determination.

(b) If at least two medical opinions based on competent medical evidence disagree as to the percentage of functional impairment, such matter may be referred by the administrative law judge to an independent health care provider who shall be agreed upon by the parties. Where the parties cannot agree, an independent healthcare provider shall be selected by the administrative law judge. The health care provider agreed to by the parties or selected by the administrative law judge pursuant to this section shall issue an opinion regarding the employee's functional impairment which shall be considered by the administrative law judge in making the final determination.

History: L. 1927, ch. 232, § 16; L. 1957, ch. 293, § 3; L. 1969, ch. 246, § 2; L. 1974, ch. 203, § 24; L. 1990, ch. 182, § 7; L. 2000, ch. 160, § 10; L. 2011, ch. 55, § 15; May 15.