

PROPOSED AMENDMENT
SENATE COMMERCE COMMITTEE
CHARLES REIMER
ASST REVISOR OF STATUTES
2-27-2013

Session of 2013

SENATE BILL No. 187

By Committee on Commerce

2-13

AN ACT concerning workers; relating to the workers compensation and employment security boards nominating committee; administrative law judge appointments; workers compensation appeals board; amending K.S.A. 2012 Supp. 44-551, 44-555c and 44-709 and repealing the existing sections.

Be it enacted by the Legislature of the State of Kansas:

Section 1. K.S.A. 2012 Supp. 44-551 is hereby amended to read as follows: 44-551. (a) The duties of the assistant directors of workers compensation may include but not be limited to acting in the capacity of an administrative law judge.

(b) Each administrative law judge shall be an attorney regularly admitted to practice law in Kansas. Such attorney shall have at least five years of experience as an attorney, with at least one year of experience practicing law in the area of workers compensation.

(c) Except as provided in subsection ~~(g)~~ (k), the annual salary of each administrative law judge shall be an amount equal to ~~75%~~ 85% of the annual salary paid by the state to a district judge, other than a district judge designated as a chief judge. Administrative law judges shall devote full time to the duties of such office and shall not engage in the private practice of law during their term of office. No administrative law judge may receive additional compensation for official services performed by the administrative law judge. Each administrative law judge shall be reimbursed for expenses incurred in the performance of such official duties under the same circumstances and to the same extent as district judges are reimbursed for such expenses.

(d) Applications for administrative law judge positions shall be submitted to the director of workers compensation. The director shall determine if an applicant meets the qualifications for an administrative law judge as prescribed in subsection (b). Qualified applicants for a position of administrative law judge shall be submitted by the director to the workers compensation ~~administrative law judge nominating and review committee and employment security boards nominating committee~~ for consideration.

(e) ~~There is hereby established the workers compensation administrative law judge nominating and review committee which shall be composed of two members appointed as follows: The Kansas AFL-CIO~~

Senate Commerce Committee
Date: 2-27-13
Attachment: 4

or is otherwise disqualified with regard to such case, the director shall ~~notify the workers compensation nominating committee of the need to~~ appoint a member pro tem. ~~Upon receipt of such notice, the committee shall act as soon as possible and nominate a qualified person to serve as member pro tem in such case in accordance with subsection (f).~~ Each member pro tem shall receive compensation at the same rate as a member of the board receives, prorated for the hours of actual service as a member pro tem and shall receive expenses under the same circumstances and to the same extent as a member of the board receives. Each member pro tem shall have all the powers, duties and functions of a member of the board with regard to the case.

(j) The board shall maintain principal offices in Topeka, Kansas, and the board may conduct hearings at a courthouse of any county in Kansas or at another location specified by the board. The secretary of labor shall provide a courtroom and other suitable quarters in Topeka, Kansas, for the use of the board and its staff. When the board conducts hearings at any location other than in Topeka, Kansas, the director shall make suitable arrangements for such hearings. Subject to the provisions of appropriation acts, the director shall provide such supplies and equipment and shall appoint such support personnel as may be necessary for the board to fulfill the duties imposed by this act, subject to approval by the secretary.

(k) For purposes of hearing cases, the board may sit together or in panels of ~~two~~ three members or more, designated by the chairperson of the board, except that an appeal from a preliminary award entered under K.S.A. 44-534a, and amendments thereto, may be heard by a panel of one member designated by the chairperson. All members of the board shall determine each matter before the board. All decisions, reviews and determinations by the board shall be approved in writing by ~~at least three board members~~ a majority comprised of not less than three of the members hearing the case at least three board members. Whenever the board enters a final order in any proceeding, the board shall make written findings of fact and conclusions of law forming the basis of the board's determination and final order. The findings of fact and conclusions of law of the board shall be made a part of the final order. The board shall mail a copy of the final order of the board to all parties to the proceeding within three days following the issuance of the final order.

Sec. 3. K.S.A. 2012 Supp. 44-709 is hereby amended to read as follows: 44-709. (a) *Filing*. Claims for benefits shall be made in accordance with rules and regulations adopted by the secretary. The secretary shall furnish a copy of such rules and regulations to any individual requesting them. Each employer shall post and maintain printed statements furnished by the secretary without cost to the employer in places readily accessible to individuals in the service of the employer.