

DLI 2026 workers' compensation legislative proposals

SECTION 1

176.081 LEGAL SERVICES OR DISBURSEMENTS; LIEN; REVIEW.

[For subdivisions 1-8, see M.S.]

Subd. 9. Retainer agreement.

An attorney who is hired by an employee to provide legal services with respect to a claim for compensation made pursuant to this chapter shall prepare a retainer agreement in which the provisions of this section are specifically set out and provide a copy of this agreement to the employee. The retainer agreement shall provide a space for the signature of the employee. A signed agreement shall raise a conclusive presumption that the employee has read and understands the statutory fee provisions. No fee shall be awarded pursuant to this section in the absence of a signed retainer agreement.

The retainer agreement shall contain a notice to the employee regarding the maximum fee allowed under this section in ten-point type, which shall read:

Notice of Maximum Fee

The maximum fee allowed by law for legal services is 20 percent of the first \$~~130,000~~ 275,000 of compensation awarded to the employee subject to a cumulative maximum fee of \$~~26,000~~ 55,000 for fees related to the same injury.

The employee shall take notice that the employee is under no legal or moral obligation to pay any fee for legal services in excess of the foregoing maximum fee.

[For subdivisions 10-12, see M.S.]

Effective date.

Section 2

176.322 DECISIONS BASED ON STIPULATED FACTS.

If the parties agree to a stipulated set of facts and only legal issues remain, the commissioner or compensation judge may determine the matter without a hearing based upon the stipulated facts and the determination is appealable to the court of appeals pursuant to sections 176.421 and 176.442. In any case where a stipulated set of facts has been submitted to the court of administrative hearings pursuant to this section, upon receipt of the file or the stipulated set of facts the chief administrative law judge shall immediately assign the case to a compensation judge for a determination. The commissioner or compensation judge shall issue a determination within 60 days after receipt of the stipulated facts.

Effective date. This section is effective the day following final enactment.