

One Hundred Second Legislature - Second Session - 2012

Introducer's Statement of Intent

LB1008

Chairperson: Senator Steve Lathrop

Committee: Business and Labor

Date of Hearing: January 30, 2012

The following constitutes the reasons for this bill and the purposes which are sought to be accomplished thereby:

LB 1008 would require the Nebraska Workers' Compensation Court to establish by rule, evidence-based utilization and treatment guidelines for medical services. Reasonable medical, surgical and hospital services would include services consistent with the utilization and treatment guidelines adopted by the workers' compensation court, as well as services falling outside of the guidelines, if the provider or supplier obtains prior authorization for the services from the workers' compensation insurer, risk management pool or self-insured employer.

The legislation would also authorize the workers' compensation court to (a) hire a medical director; (b) establish by rule an independent medical review process for treatment or services denied by an insurer as not reasonable medical, surgical, or hospital services; and (c) provide for an annual review of the evidence-based utilization and treatment guidelines to consider amendments or changes to the guidelines in consultation with providers with relevant experience and education.

The purpose of LB1008 is to enhance the quality and timeliness of medical care provided to injured workers by providing for the best treatment practices and reducing disputes regarding the treatment that is necessary to treat work related injuries.

Principal Introducer: _____

Senator Tony Fulton