

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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STATE OF MAINE
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
111TH LEGISLATURE
SECOND REGULAR SESSION

COMMITTEE AMENDMENT "A" to H.P. 1660,
L.D. 2190, Bill, "AN ACT to Amend the Early Payment
Provision of the Workers' Compensation Act with Re-
spect to Payments for Impairment and Medicals-only
Claims."

Amend the bill in section 2, in subsection 4, in
the 6th line (page 2, line 39 in L.D.) by striking
out the underlined figure "180" and inserting in its
place the underlined figure '90'

Further amend the bill in section 2, in subsec-
tion 4, in the 3rd line from the end (page 3, line 6
in L.D.) by striking out the underlined figure "180"
and inserting in its place the underlined figure '90'

Further amend the bill in section 5, in subsec-
tion 7, in the 10th line (page 4, line 23 in L.D.) by
striking out the underlined figure "180" and insert-
ing in its place the underlined figure '90'

Further amend the bill in section 5, in subsec-
tion 7 in the first blocked paragraph in the 2nd line
(page 4, line 33 in L.D.) by striking out the follow-
ing: "180-day" and inserting in its place the fol-
lowing: '90-day'

Further amend the bill in section 5, in subsec-
tion 7, in the first blocked paragraph, in the 4th
line from the end (page 5, line 4 in L.D.) by strik-
ing out the following: "180-day" and inserting in
its place the following: '90-day'

Further amend the bill in section 7, in paragraph
A, in the last line (page 5, line 39 in L.D.) by
striking out the following: "and 4" and inserting in

COMMITTEE AMENDMENT "A" to H.P. 1660, L.D. 2190

1 its place the following: '4 and 7'

2 STATEMENT OF FACT

3 This amendment changes the initial decision-mak-
4 ing period within which the insurer must decide to
5 pay or controvert from 180 days in the original bill
6 to 90 days. A 90-day period substantially extends
7 the current 14-day time period and offers employers
8 and their insurers increased time to obtain medical
9 reports in permanent impairment and medicals-only
10 workers' compensation claims. The 14-day period re-
11 mains in effect for other claims, including incapaci-
12 ty claims. The 180 day proposal was too long, allow-
13 ing 6 months to pass before the insurer must decide
14 to pay the claim or controvert it and thereby
15 negating the Legislature's intent in enacting the
16 early-pay system in the first session. However, some
17 extension of the 14-day period is needed because in
18 practice medical reports cannot be obtained in such a
19 short period, leading employers to controvert some
20 cases that would not be controverted if full medical
21 information were available before the time period ex-
22 pired.

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Reported by the Committee on Labor
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3/21/84 (Filing No. H-554)