

SB0830: Amendments to LE § 9-709(a)

Reason for the bill is to improve parties' access through CompHub to critically important records in the claim file. Currently, the parties to a particular claim need to go on a subpoena-powered fishing trip through decades of Commission files to locate any records that (*First*) pertain to a particular claimant and (*Second*) might be relevant to their current claim (for example, a re-injured or previously injured body part). Finally, the amendments make explicit that the parties include the UEF and SIF, other state agencies with a stake in the process.

1. **Purpose of the Bill:** The bill aims to alter the entities to which and the information of which a claimant must authorize the release in a workers' compensation claim application.
2. **Entities Authorized for Information Release:** The bill specifies that the claimant must authorize the release of information to the claimant's attorney, the Uninsured Employers' Fund, the Subsequent Injury Fund, the claimant's employer, and the insurer of the claimant's employer.
3. **Types of Information Released:** The authorization includes the release of medical and financial information relevant to the injury and the description of how the injury occurred. It also includes the release of information relating to the history, findings, office and patient charts, files, examination and progress notes, physical evidence, *and additional claims filed by the claimant*; including information in the custody of the Commission.
4. **Duration of Authorization:** The authorization is effective for one year from the date the claim is filed.
5. **Effective Date:** The Act is set to take effect on October 1, 2025.

NOTE:

Important Housekeeping Matter: We need to AMEND SB 0830 to apply these same changes to LE § 9-710(b) and § 9-711(a), as well.