



# HOUSE BILL 26: Workers' Comp/Approval of Disputed Legal Fees.

2017-2018 General Assembly

---

<b>Committee:</b>	Senate Rules and Operations of the Senate	<b>Date:</b>	June 14, 2017
<b>Introduced by:</b>	Reps. Watford, Zachary	<b>Prepared by:</b>	Amy Darden
<b>Analysis of:</b>	Third Edition		Staff Attorney

---

**OVERVIEW:** *House Bill 26 would require the Industrial Commission to give notice of the amount of the approved attorneys' fees in a workers' compensation case to all attorneys who represented the injured worker.*

**CURRENT LAW:** In workers' compensation proceedings, the amount of the fee for the injured employee's attorney must be approved by the Industrial Commission, and the Commission also hears and determines any dispute between the employee's current and past attorneys over the division of the approved fee. In making that determination, the Commission currently is not required to disclose the total amount of the approved fee to the employee's past attorney.

**BILL ANALYSIS:** House Bill 26 would amend G.S. 97-90(f) to require the Industrial Commission to provide notice of the total amount of the fee approved for division between attorneys to an injured worker's current and previous attorneys of record if there is a dispute over the division of the fee between the attorneys.

**EFFECTIVE DATE:** This act is effective when it becomes law and applies to claims pending on or after that date.

*Jason Moran-Bates, Staff Attorney, substantially contributed to this summary.*

Karen Cochrane-Brown  
Director



Legislative Analysis  
Division  
919-733-2578