



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

2017-2018 General Assembly

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<b>Committee:</b>	House Judiciary I	<b>Date:</b>	February 10, 2017
<b>Introduced by:</b>	Reps. Watford, Zachary	<b>Prepared by:</b>	Jason Moran-Bates
<b>Analysis of:</b>	First Edition		Committee Co-Counsel

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**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 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.

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