

Legislative Analysis



WORKER'S COMPENSATION: PRO ATHLETES

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House Bill 6640

Sponsor: Rep. David Robertson

Committee: Employment Relations, Training, and Safety

Complete to 11-27-06

A SUMMARY OF HOUSE BILL 6640 AS INTRODUCED 11-14-06

The Worker's Disability Compensation Act currently allows a person who suffers an injury arising out of and in the course of employment as a professional athlete to receive weekly benefits only when the person's average weekly wages in all employments *at the time of application for benefits and thereafter* are less than 200 percent of the state average weekly wage. The bill would replace the language in italics with "at the date of injury."

Also under the bill, a person who suffers an injury arising out of and in the course of employment as a professional athlete would be presumed not to have a loss of earnings or earning capacity as a result of a compensable injury or disease *during the off-season when the sport is not played*. The presumption could be rebutted only by a preponderance of the evidence showing the person suffered a loss of earning capacity and wage loss in all off-season employment within the employee's qualifications, training, and experience.

MCL 418.360

FISCAL IMPACT:

There is no fiscal impact on the State of Michigan or its local units of government

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