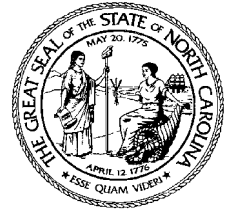


# LEGISLATIVE UPDATE



EMPLOYERS COALITION OF NORTH CAROLINA

resources for an informed workplace and democracy



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## **Good News from the Industrial Commission**

ECNC sent out an urgent e-mail to our members requesting that they contact Chairman Buck Lattimore of the Industrial Commission regarding a proposed change to Industrial Commission (IC) Rule 407 that had been suggested at an Industrial Commission Advisory Council meeting. The response from our members was overwhelming—over 250 e-mails were sent to Chairman Lattimore opposing the possible rule change.

Below is an excerpt from the e-mail reply that Chairman Lattimore sent to the opponents of the proposed change to IC Rule 407:

*"I have received very few comments regarding most items on the list of suggested rule changes with the exception of the proposed amendment to Rule 407.*

*Because of the complexity of this issue the Commissioners have agreed to table the suggested change to Rule 407 and ask a sub committee of the Advisory Council to study this issue along with other utilization review issues."*

The proposed change would erode an employer's right and ability to effectively manage workers' compensation medical treatment and associated costs. This erosion would be the result of the treating physicians' authority to select diagnostic facilities and provide medical treatment or diagnostic tests without the employer's and/or the employer's workers' comp carrier's approval.

We will continue to monitor this issue plus others at the Industrial Commission so that ECNC members can know early in the rules process of possible changes. For additional information regarding the proposed change to IC 407, go to ECNC's website at [www.ecnc.us](http://www.ecnc.us).

## **Let the Races Begin**

The filing period for the North Carolina General Assembly opened February 13<sup>th</sup> and will close February 28<sup>th</sup>. Both the House and Senate have seen a significant reduction in the percent of legislators who vote in favor of pro-business legislation.

## **What's going on in Legislative Study Commissions**

**House Select Committee on Health Care - Cost of Health Care and Health Insurance Subcommittee** where legislative staff said:

- "North Carolina has the highest small business premium rates of any state in the South Atlantic"
- "It would take a 60% tax credit of the annual premium amount to provide enough inducement for small business owners not offering health insurance to start providing the benefit."

**Administrative Procedures Oversight Commission**

- Small Business Improvement Act to be discussed at the March 9<sup>th</sup> meeting of the commission
- This is an ECNC supported bill, please see our website for information

**Study Committee on Workers' Compensation Benefit**

- Committee members have still not been appointed
- First meeting was anticipated to be February 28<sup>th</sup>, but there is good likelihood it will be delayed
- Committee membership will increase from 12 to 14
- We still need workers' comp examples! See our website for details.

## **FEATURED COMPANY**

Joe Gibbs is the owner of Joe Gibbs Racing (JGR), one of the most successful teams in the NASCAR NEXTEL Cup Series. JGR has produced championships for Bobby Labonte in 2000 and Tony Stewart in 2002 and 2005. In addition to his ownership duties at JGR, Gibbs also serves as Head Coach of the Washington Redskins in the National Football League. Gibbs won three Super Bowls during his first stint as Redskins coach from 1981-1992.

It was in July 1991 that JGR was formed with business partner Don Meredith. The pair met in April of 1991 with Jimmy Johnson of Hendrick Motorsports and seven-time series champion Richard Petty to discuss forming a NASCAR team.

Under Joe Gibbs' ownership, JGR has won three series titles and more than 40 NEXTEL CUP races.

Joe Gibbs Racing is located in a 325,000 square foot state-of-the-art race shop in Huntersville, N.C., which houses all three NEXTEL Cup Series teams. The company understands that a good business climate in North Carolina is important for all types of business, which is why they support the legislative advocacy efforts of ECNC.

