

By: Zaffirini

S.B. No. 67

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

1 AN ACT

2 relating to conducting certain contested case hearings under the
3 Texas workers' compensation system by videoconference.

4 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF TEXAS:

5 SECTION 1. Section 410.005(a), Labor Code, is amended to
6 read as follows:

7 (a) A [~~Unless the division determines that good cause~~
8 ~~exists for the selection of a different location, a~~] contested case
9 hearing may not be conducted at a site more than 75 miles from the
10 claimant's residence at the time of the injury unless:

11 (1) the division determines that good cause exists for
12 the selection of a different location; or

13 (2) the contested case hearing is conducted by
14 videoconference as provided by Section 410.0055.

15 SECTION 2. Subchapter A, Chapter 410, Labor Code, is
16 amended by adding Section 410.0055 to read as follows:

17 Sec. 410.0055. CONDUCTING CERTAIN CONTESTED CASE HEARINGS
18 BY VIDEOCONFERENCE. (a) In this section, "custodial officer,"
19 "detention officer," "emergency medical technician,"
20 "firefighter," and "peace officer" have the meanings assigned by
21 Section 607.051, Government Code.

22 (b) The division shall conduct a contested case hearing by
23 videoconference on request of:

24 (1) the claimant, if:

1 (A) the claim relates to an injury incurred by
2 the claimant in the course and scope of the claimant's employment or
3 volunteer service as a custodial officer, detention officer,
4 emergency medical technician, firefighter, or peace officer; or

5 (B) the claimant resides more than 75 miles from
6 the hearing site at the time of the hearing; or

7 (2) the insurance carrier, if the insurance carrier
8 is:

9 (A) the State Office of Risk Management;

10 (B) The Texas A&M University System;

11 (C) the Texas Department of Transportation; or

12 (D) The University of Texas System.

13 SECTION 3. The changes in law made by this Act apply only to
14 a contested case hearing requested on or after the effective date of
15 this Act. A contested case hearing requested before the effective
16 date of this Act is governed by the law in effect on the date the
17 contested case hearing was requested, and the former law is
18 continued in effect for that purpose.

19 SECTION 4. This Act takes effect September 1, 2025.