

By: Bell of Kaufman

H.B. No. 2488

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to conducting certain contested case hearings under the Texas workers' compensation system by remote communication.

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

SECTION 1. Subchapter A, Chapter 410, Labor Code, is amended by adding Section 410.0055 to read as follows:

Sec. 410.0055. CONDUCTING CERTAIN CONTESTED CASE HEARINGS BY REMOTE COMMUNICATION. (a) Notwithstanding Section 410.005(a), the division may conduct a contested case hearing by videoconference:

(1) on a determination by the division that good cause exists for conducting the hearing in that manner; or

(2) on the mutual agreement of the parties.

(b) The commissioner shall adopt rules as necessary to implement this section.

SECTION 2. As soon as practicable after the effective date of this Act, the commissioner of workers' compensation shall adopt rules to implement Section 410.0055, Labor Code, as added by this Act.

SECTION 3. Section 410.0055, Labor Code, as added by this Act, applies to a contested case hearing requested on or after the effective date of this Act. A contested case hearing requested before the effective date of this Act is governed by the law in effect on the date the contested case hearing was requested, and the

1 former law is continued in effect for that purpose.

2       SECTION 4. This Act takes effect immediately if it receives  
3 a vote of two-thirds of all the members elected to each house, as  
4 provided by Section 39, Article III, Texas Constitution. If this  
5 Act does not receive the vote necessary for immediate effect, this  
6 Act takes effect September 1, 2025.