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[Illinois House Bill 5424 Will Reduce Compensation Benefits to Injured Workers](#)

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The Illinois legislature will likely take up a vote on the HB5424 in early January in the veto session. Our prior blog post illustrated two proposed changes. There are other changes and it is hoped this blog will shed light on the bill. Generally, changes to the Illinois Workers' Compensation system are made by the "agreed bill process" which occurs when management representatives and labor representatives discuss changes to improve the Illinois Workers' Compensation Act. In a departure from this tradition, in late fall 2010, the Illinois Senate and House formed committees to undertake an investigation of the Workers' Compensation Act and to initiate changes. A very significant change is with the medical fee schedule allowing for reimbursement for physicians and other medical providers. The new fee schedule reduces the amount of money paid to the physicians and medical providers receive for treating workers injured on the job. These reductions in medical reimbursements make it less likely the most competent physicians will be willing to treat injured workers. We are asking all of our clients and their friends and relatives to contact their State representative to oppose this legislation. If you are unsure of your State representative, please do not hesitate to call us @ 1-800-444-1525 and we will make sure you are directed to the proper Representative.