



**Katz Friedman**  
Eagle • Eisenstein • Johnson • Bareck

Protecting the Rights of Working People Since 1954

Katz, Friedman, Eagle, Eisenstein, Johnson & Bareck, P.C.

77 W. Washington Street  
20th Floor  
Chicago, IL 60602-2904

Telephone: 312-263-6330  
Fax: 312-372-5555  
Toll Free in Illinois: 800-444-1525  
National Toll Free: 888-626-5556  
Website: [www.kfeej.com](http://www.kfeej.com)

## [Illinois Workers' Compensation Reform](#) [Spring 2011](#)

**Posted:** March 4th, 2011

Well, if you thought the fight was over when the fall veto session concluded, you were wrong. Two Senate bills by passed the Committee process and could very well make their way to a vote on the Senate floor as early as next week. Neither bill is friendly to workers or physicians and medical providers. In fact, these two bills go even further in decimating the rights of injured workers in Illinois!

SB 1349 is sponsored by Bill Bradley (D) Marion. Senator Bradley's bill proposes to change the causation standard to limit the compensability of claims under the Act. It intends to eliminate the presumption of compensability for firefighters and paramedics for certain diseases, eliminates the free choice of medical for the worker unless the condition is life threatening, requires the injured worker to completely waive the physician/patient privilege, and makes numerous other changes taking the rights of the injured and the physicians who treat them back to stone age.

SB 2155 is sponsored by Kyle McCarter, (R) Highland and is just as bad for workers injured on the job as Senator Bradley's bill, although Senator McCarter takes a different tack. His bill limits the compensation an injured worker receives for temporary disability, as well as temporary partial disability and permanent disability. God forbid you are seriously injured on the job if this bill gets passed. You will be dumped on the public welfare rolls so quickly, your head would spin. However, in only attacking the injured worker and not the medical providers, this bill will hope to split the medical community's support from the victims of these injuries on the job. A very clever effort! This author encourages each and everyone supporting the rights of injured workers to contact your senator and urge a NO vote. If you cannot locate your Senator on the General Assembly website, feel free to contact us for that information.