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[Illinois Workers' Compensation Legislation/Reform](#)

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It is May 22, 2011 and the Illinois Legislature has until May 31st to deform Work Comp. Word is that they will stay in session every day until the end. It is clear that there is a strong desire by the Democrats in the House and Senate to broker a bipartisan deal between labor and management. Of course, labor will be the big giver here. It appears that Management is focused on dramatic cost cutting and in a system of limited benefits, that money comes out of the pockets of doctors, hospitals, injured workers and other medical providers.

Carpal Tunnel syndrome seems to be set for a whack. This may very well be the result of the Menard Prison situation. You know how it goes, there are a few bad apples (allegedly, remember, the Feds are still investigating) and everyone with the same condition is knocked. So...lower benefits for you bad people who develop carpal tunnel syndrom due to repetitive trauma! It is unlikely any legislator looking at this bill has done or seen the type of work that is associated with this disorder, but they are willing to be persuaded by a reporter that there is fraud in the system. Who is that guy anyway? An internet search will certainly provide details. Management negotiators want AMA guidelines. Of course, there was plenty of testimony why the use of the guides is inappropriate during the hearings conducted by the Senate and House in the fall but the dramatic reduction of benefits to the injured worker is too much for Management to pass on when they have Labor on the run. And on the run we must be! If we were not, we certainly would not be in the weak position we find ourselves in at the bargaining table with a Democratic majority in the House and Senate and a Democratic Governor

We expect a bill to surface, perhaps as early as tomorrow. Be ready to call your legislator! I will keep you all posted.