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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 Senate Passes Workers' Compensation Reform!](#)

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The Illinois Senate passed a bill introduced by Senator William Hainline. The bill has been sent to the House floor for a vote. SB 1147 is a bill in reaction to the deaths caused by an Illinois State Trooper while he was in the course of his employment. The Trooper was denied benefits by the Arbitrator who heard the case, and the Trooper has appealed to the Workers' Compensation Commission requesting that the Arbitrator's decision be reversed. The bill is rather short as it only amends Section 11 of the Act. Here is the complete text of the bill:

Notwithstanding any other defense, accidental injuries incurred while the employee is engaged in the active commission of and as a proximate result of the active commission of (a) a forcible felony, (b) aggravated driving under the influence of alcohol, other drug or drugs, or intoxicating compound or compounds, or any combination thereof, or (c) reckless homicide and for which the employee was convicted do not arise out of and in the course of employment if the commission of that forcible felony, aggravated driving under the influence, or reckless homicide caused an accident resulting in the death or severe injury of another person. If an employee is acquitted of a forcible felony, aggravated driving under the influence, or reckless homicide that caused an accident resulting in the death or severe injury of another person or if these charges are dismissed, there shall be no presumption that the employee is eligible for benefits under this Act. No employee shall be entitled to additional compensation under Sections 19(k) or 19(l) of this Act or attorney's fees under Section 16 of this Act when the employee has been charged with a forcible felony, aggravated driving under the influence, or reckless homicide that caused an accident resulting in the death or severe injury of another person and the employer terminates benefits or refuses to pay benefits to the employee until the termination of any pending criminal proceedings.

It would appear that the House will have an equal amount of enthusiasm for this bill. However, the question remains whether additional legislation will make its way through the House and Senate Chambers. Kyle McCarter (R) is hoping to push through his bill, SB1349 which is a gutting of the social legislation called Workers' Compensation. However, this bill is so extreme it is hard to believe that Senator McCarter could muster enough votes to pass it. There is reform fever in the air in Springfield. Just ask the teachers! Please make sure your representative knows your opposition to SB 1349. Do not let others decide your fate.

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