

NOTICE OF INTENT

Department of Labor  
Office of Workers' Compensation

Hearing Officer Rules (LAC 40:I.Chapter 21)

Under the authority of the Workers' Compensation Act, particularly R.S. 23:1021 et seq., and in accordance with the provision of the Administrative Procedure Act, R.S. 49:950 et seq., the Department of Labor, Office of Workers' Compensation hereby gives notice that rulemaking procedures have been initiated to amend the Office of Workers' Compensation Rules, LAC 40:I.2123.D.

The amendment to this rule will prevent unnecessary burdens upon the Workers' Compensation hearing process.

The text of this proposed rule may be viewed in its entirety in the Emergency Rule Section of this issue of the *Louisiana Register*.

All interested persons are invited to submit written comments on the proposed regulations. Such comments should be submitted no later than October 20, 1996, at 4:15 p.m., to Ronald L. Menville, Director, Office of Workers' Compensation, Box 94040, Baton Rouge, LA 70804-9040 or 1001 North Twenty-third Street, Baton Rouge, LA 70802 or to FAX number (504) 342-5665

Ronald L. Menville  
Director

**FISCAL AND ECONOMIC IMPACT STATEMENT  
FOR ADMINISTRATIVE RULES  
RULE TITLE: Hearing Officer Rules**

- I. ESTIMATED IMPLEMENTATION COSTS (SAVINGS) TO STATE OR LOCAL GOVERNMENTAL UNITS (Summary)  
There are no additional identifiable costs or savings accruing in aggregate state or local governmental units as a result of implementing this rule.
- II. ESTIMATED EFFECT ON REVENUE COLLECTIONS OF STATE OR LOCAL GOVERNMENTAL UNITS (Summary)  
There is no expected effect on revenue collection of state and governmental units as a result of implementing this rule.
- III. ESTIMATED COSTS AND/OR ECONOMIC BENEFITS TO DIRECTLY AFFECTED PERSONS OR NONGOVERNMENTAL GROUPS (Summary)  
This rule will prevent an undue burden on the Workers' Compensation system by prohibiting the filing of class action suits in the Workers' Compensation hearing districts. Employees will retain the right to file individual claims with the hearing district and therefore do not lose any right to assert a claim for benefits.
- IV. ESTIMATED EFFECT ON COMPETITION AND EMPLOYMENT (Summary)  
These rules are designed to facilitate the administration of the Office of Workers' Compensation and as such will not directly affect employment or competition.

Ronald L. Menville  
Director

RichardW.England

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Assistant to the  
Legislative Fiscal Officer