

Department Proposal 1

Chapters 20, 227, DWD 80 and A 4

The Department proposes the transfer of the worker's compensation adjudicatory functions and staff currently at the Department of Administration-Division of Hearings and Appeals (DHA) back to the Department of Workforce Development- Worker's Compensation Division (WCD).

2015 Wis. Act 55, effective January 1, 2016, transferred worker's compensation adjudicatory functions from the WCD to the DHA. Since the transfer considerable confusion has occurred among stakeholders and staff about whether the WCD or the DHA is responsible for performing administrative functions. Cost savings and efficiencies that were contemplated as benefits of the transfer have not been realized.

Although this proposal should be viewed as cost neutral it advances lean government since it will reduce future costs, improve efficiencies and eliminate confusion for worker's compensation stakeholders and staff who administer the program.