**A** **BILL**

TO AMEND SECTION 42-17-20, CODE OF LAWS OF SOUTH CAROLINA, 1976, RELATING TO HEARINGS BEFORE THE SOUTH CAROLINA WORKERS’ COMPENSATION COMMISSION, SO AS TO PROVIDE THAT THE VENUE FOR HEARINGS SHALL BE IN DISTRICTS ESTABLISHED BY THE COMMISSION.

Be it enacted by the General Assembly of the State of South Carolina:

SECTION 1. Section 42-17-20 of the 1976 Code is amended to read:

“Section 42-17-20. If the employer and the injured employee or his dependents fail to reach an agreement in regard to compensation under this title within fourteen days after the employer has knowledge of the injury or after a death or if they have reached such an agreement which has been signed and filed with the commission and compensation has been paid or is due in accordance therewith and the parties thereto then disagree as to the continuance of any weekly payment under such agreement, either party may make application to the commission for a hearing in regard to the matters at issue and for a ruling thereon. Immediately after such application has been received the commission shall set a date for a hearing, which shall be held as soon as practicable, and shall notify the parties at issue of the time and place of such hearing. The hearing shall be held in the ~~city or county~~ district in which the injury occurred, unless otherwise agreed to by the parties and authorized by the commission. The commission must establish the districts.”

SECTION 2. This act takes effect upon approval by the Governor.

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