



IOWA HOUSE DEMOCRATS

BILL SUMMARY

Workers' Compensation HF 593

Status of Bill: House Floor

Committee: Commerce Committee (15-8)

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Lead Democrat: Rep. Meyer

Floor Manager: Rep. Deyoe

Background

In 2018, the Iowa Supreme Court issued a decision under *Bluml v. Dee Jay's Inc.* reversing a lower court decision that declined to award benefits to a fast-food employee who suffered serious head injuries while at work. The employee fell backwards directly to a tile floor after having a seizure while handling a customer order. The Workers' Compensation Commissioner declined to award benefits, reasoning that under current law, idiopathic falls from standing or walking position to a level floor do not arise out of employment under workers' compensation. The Supreme Court reversed and held that the Commissioner incorrectly treated a factual issue as a legal matter.

Bill Summary

Based on the above court case, this bill would amend current Code to prohibit personal injuries due to idiopathic or unexplained falls onto a level surface from the definition under workers' compensation (Ch. 85).

Ver Schuer, Alison [LEGIS]G:\Caucus Staff\AVS\Commerce\2019 Session\HF 593 - Workers' Compensation Definition.docx\April 9, 2019\8:12 AM