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HOUSE BILL NO. 1855

Offered January 19, 1995

A BILL to amend and reenact § 65.2-704 of the Code of Virginia, relating to workers' compensation hearings.

Patrons—Stump, Ingram, Kilgore and Phillips

Referred to Committee on Labor and Commerce

Be it enacted by the General Assembly of Virginia:

1. That § 65.2-704 of the Code of Virginia is amended and reenacted as follows:

§ 65.2-704. Hearing and award by Commission.

A. The Commission or any of its members or deputies shall hear the parties at issue, their representatives, and witnesses; shall decide the issues in a summary manner; and shall make an award carrying out the decision. A copy of the award shall be sent immediately to the parties at issue.

B. Any member of the Commission who hears the parties at issue and makes an award under the provisions of subsection A of this section shall not participate in a rehearing and review of such award provided under § 65.2-705. When a member is absent or is prohibited by the provisions of this subsection from sitting with the full Commission to hear a review, the Chairman shall appoint one of the deputies to sit with the other Commission members.

C. Hearings convened by the Commission shall be public proceedings and, upon proper request to the Commission, may, in the discretion of the Commission, be video recorded for public broadcast at the expense of the requesting party, subject only to the same limitations and conditions as apply to court proceedings in the Commonwealth.

D. A hearing convened pursuant to subsection A of this section shall be held within sixty days from the time an application for hearing is filed. Continuances requested by either party shall be granted at the discretion of the Commission upon a showing of good cause.