

Amendment to SB 569

1 Amend the bill by replacing section 1 with the following:

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3 1 Hearing Officers. Amend RSA 281-A:42-b to read as follows:

4 281-A:42-b Hearing Officers. The commissioner shall appoint as many individuals as necessary  
5 to carry out the department's responsibilities under this chapter. Such individuals [~~shall have~~  
6 ~~experience in workers' compensation and~~] shall hear workers' compensation cases before the  
7 commissioner. The commissioner shall set forth the job qualification necessary to [~~insure~~] **ensure**  
8 that each hearing officer is qualified to hear workers' compensation cases. **Individuals employed**  
9 **as hearing officers shall have graduated from an accredited law school. The commissioner**  
10 **shall give a hiring preference to licensed attorneys who have workers' compensation**  
11 **experience or who have administrative adjudication experience.** The **hearing officer** salary  
12 shall be commensurate with the responsibilities and experience required. The commissioner shall,  
13 by rules adopted under RSA 541-A, strengthen the reporting structure and the role of a hearing  
14 officer; develop a code of ethics for hearings and hearing officers; develop and require at least 15  
15 hours of continuing education on an annual basis for hearing officers; and require a minimum of an  
16 additional 15 hours of annual training and briefing with the attorney general's staff.

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AMENDED ANALYSIS

This bill requires hearing officers at the department of labor to be graduates of an accredited law school and directs the labor commissioner to give a hiring preference to licensed attorneys who have workers' compensation experience or who have administrative adjudication experience.