



Illinois
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From the Illinois State Medical Society

NEWS

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Successful Override of Senate Bill 904 Veto

Statement from Katherine M. Tynus, MD, President, Illinois State Medical Society

Earlier today, by a margin of 110-2, the Illinois House of Representatives voted to override Governor Rauner's amendatory veto of S.B. 904. The House's action comes after an earlier Senate vote of 55-1 in favor of the override. S.B. 904 became effective upon the House action. The new law delivers important safeguards to protect injured workers' access to medical care through the workers' compensation system.

The Illinois State Medical Society (ISMS) is grateful to Sen. Michael Hastings and Reps. Jay Hoffman and Keith Wheeler for their commitment and leadership in advancing this bipartisan effort. We are similarly grateful to all Illinois lawmakers who repeatedly voted "YEA" in this fight for injured workers.

The new law:

- Allows medical professionals to collect interest on late medical payments by filing a claim for this interest in circuit court. While this interest provision has been in law since 2005, there had been no enforcement means to collect this interest.
- Requires workers' compensation insurance companies to send an Explanation of Benefits to medical professionals explaining why they have denied the bill and what additional information they need.
- Prevents workers' compensation insurers from ignoring the law requiring them to use electronic billing for workers' compensation claims. This has been the law for seven years, yet workers' compensation insurers still refuse to use standardized electronic billing systems that are common throughout the healthcare world.

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Founded in 1840, ISMS is a professional membership association representing Illinois physicians in all medical specialties, and their patients, statewide. Dr. Tynus is board-certified in internal medicine, practicing with Northwestern Medical Group in Chicago, IL.