

# 2021 Louisiana Legislative Session:

## Bills Potentially Affecting Your Practices

### §22:337(A)(17)

Requires workers' compensation insurers to maintain an office in Louisiana to process claims or retain an adjuster with a Louisiana license.

### §23:1161.1(A)

Requires those who issue Workers Compensation policies in Louisiana to retain a claims adjuster who possesses a Louisiana license and those insurers who issue policies are deemed to consent and agree in the event a Disputed Claim for Compensation is filed seeking statutory penalties and attorney fees pursuant to R.S. 23:1201 the relevant claims adjuster shall be made available for deposition via telephone or virtual technology (Zoom, Skype, etc.) and to be available for trial for in-person testimony, at the insurer's expense.

### §23:1317

State IMEs can only be sought at or before the pretrial conference is removed. The State IME report shall not include a statement of the legal issues the examiner was asked to address or any future recommended treatment or reasons for future treatment.

### La. C.C.P. Art. 1001

Extends the time for answering a lawsuit from 15 to 21 days. A party has 30 days from service of discovery with a 1008 to respond to it.

### Compensation Rates:

September 1, 2021 through August 31, 2022:

LA. Maximum Compensation Rate is \$743.00.

LA. Minimum Compensation Rate is \$198.00.

The new mileage rate is .56 cents per mile, same as last year.

