2026 Annual Report - DRAFT
SOUTH DAKOTA WORKERS' COMPENSATION ADVISORY COUNCIL

This document serves as the report of meetings, discussions, and recommendations of the Workers' Compensation Advisory Council (WCAC), pursuant to SDCL 62-2-10. WCAC members include Amber Mulder (chair), Kate Lukkes, Kory Rawstern, Michael Plank, Jeff Kjenstad, Jason Dodson, Susan Peterson, Julie Johnson, Taya Runyan, and Kendra Ringstmeyer (nonvoting member and Interim Secretary of Labor and Regulation). The report is available to any interested person or group and can be found at dlr.sd.gov.

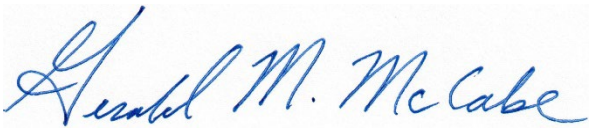
Effective July 1, 2026, through June 30, 2027, an overall average decrease of 5.1% was approved for the advisory loss costs in the voluntary market. This is the 15th consecutive decrease for loss costs in the voluntary insurance market. An overall average rate level decrease of 4.9% was approved in the Assigned Risk Market.

WCAC action for 2026 began at the July 9, 2026, meeting. WCAC passed a motion to approve the South Dakota State Bar Association, Workers' Compensation Committee (Bar Committee), to proceed with a legislative proposal to change SDCL 62-4-8.1 to remove the South Dakota provision regarding the educational institution for which the funds may be used. Additionally, WCAC passed a motion to approve the Department of Labor and Regulation to proceed with rulemaking to update the present value PTD calculation to reflect current life expectancies, which was also a Bar Committee proposal.

WCAC held its second meeting on November 19, 2026. WCAC heard a medical data report from Jon Sinclair with the National Council on Compensation Insurance.

Submitted documents and WCAC minutes are available at: https://dlr.sd.gov/workers_compensation/meetings.aspx.

Respectfully submitted on November 19, 2026, by the WCAC.



Gerald M. McCabe
Director of Labor and Management