



State of New Mexico
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Governor Martinez Signs Senate Bill 155

Albuquerque, N.M., April 5, 2017 – New Mexico Governor Susana Martinez on Monday signed Senate Bill 155, sponsored by Sen. Jacob Candelaria (D-Albuquerque). The new law attempts to clarify a worker's entitlement to disability benefits when an injured worker unreasonably refuses a post-injury return to work offer, or is terminated for misconduct after returning to work post-injury. The new law would also allow for fines of up to \$10,000 against employers who terminate workers for pretextual reasons in order to avoid payment of benefits to the worker, or as retaliation against the worker for simply seeking benefits.

Senate Bill 155 was the most recent attempt at clarifying workers' compensation benefit laws following the New Mexico Court of Appeals' decisions in *Cordova v. KSL Union* (2012-NMCA-083), and *Hawkins v. McDonald's* (2014-NMCA-048).

The new law will take effect June 16, 2017.