

Florida businesses, attorneys react to workers' comp ruling

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Businesses and attorneys are weighing the impact of last week's ruling by the [Florida Supreme Court](#) that a St. Petersburg firefighter who was injured on the job should have been granted longer workers' comp coverage, [the South Florida Business Journal reports](#).

The court ruled that [Bradley Westphal](#) deserved up to five years of benefits because he was totally disabled, rather than the two-year limit under the current state law.

Associated Industries of Florida set a conference call for media and members on Monday afternoon. Several law firms put out news releases and alerts to clients about the case.

The AIF announcement said that case “arguably represents a significant impact to the workers' compensation system” that could apply to all cases dating back to 1994, when state law was changed.

“Accordingly, this case could have significant rate and claims impacts for many employers and carriers across the state,” the AIF release said.

[Karen Gilmartin](#), a defense attorney in the Miami office of Kelley Kronenberg, said she expects the Legislature to address the Westphal case, but she's not sure how fast they will act.