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2 An act relating to the Office of the Judges of
3 Compensation Claims; amending s. 440.44, F.S.;
4 deleting a requirement for the office to maintain
5 district offices and personnel at a certain level;
6 providing an effective date.

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8 Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:
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10 Section 1. Subsection (5) of section 440.44, Florida
11 Statutes, is amended to read:

12 440.44 Workers' compensation; staff organization.—

13 (5) OFFICE.—The department, the agency, and the Deputy
14 Chief Judge shall maintain and keep open during reasonable
15 business hours an office, which shall be provided in the Capitol
16 or some other suitable building in the City of Tallahassee, for
17 the transaction of business under this chapter, at which office
18 the official records and papers shall be kept. The office shall
19 be furnished and equipped. The department, the agency, any judge
20 of compensation claims, or the Deputy Chief Judge may hold
21 sessions and conduct hearings at any place within the state. ~~The~~
22 ~~Office of the Judges of Compensation Claims shall maintain the~~
23 ~~17 district offices, 31 judges of compensation claims, and 31~~
24 ~~mediators as they exist on June 30, 2001.~~

25 Section 2. This act shall take effect upon becoming a law.