

SENATE BILL 592

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2001 Regular Session
11r2331
CF 11r2542

By: **Senator Della**
Introduced and read first time: February 2, 2001
Assigned to: Finance

Committee Report: Favorable with amendments
Senate action: Recommitted to Committee, March 23, 2001
Committee Report: Favorable with amendments
Senate action: Adopted
Read second time: March 29, 2001

CHAPTER _____

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Workers' Compensation ~~Insurers~~ - Office and Personnel Requirements**

3 FOR the purpose of altering the office and personnel requirements for certain
4 governmental self-insurance groups, employers that self-insure, and insurers
5 providing workers' compensation insurance in the State; requiring the Workers'
6 Compensation Commission to report on or before a certain date to certain
7 committees of the General Assembly; providing for the termination of this Act;
8 and generally relating to office and personnel requirements for certain
9 governmental self-insurance groups, employers that self-insure, and insurers
10 providing workers' compensation insurance in the State.

11 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,
12 Article - Labor and Employment
13 Section 9-404(g), 9-405(d), and 9-410
14 Annotated Code of Maryland
15 (1999 Replacement Volume and 2000 Supplement)

16 SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF
17 MARYLAND, That the Laws of Maryland read as follows:

18 **Article - Labor and Employment**

19 9-404.

20 (g) (1) Each governmental self-insurance group shall have in the State [an
21 office run by] a competent individual who handles all [of the] DISPUTED workers'

1 compensation [work] CLAIMS in the State for the governmental self-insurance
2 group.

3 (2) Each governmental self-insurance group shall establish a toll-free
4 telephone number through which an employee or claimant, or a representative of an
5 employee or claimant, may make direct telephone inquiries during regular business
6 hours.

7 (3) The Commission may assess a fine not exceeding \$1,000 on a
8 governmental self-insurance group that does not comply with this subsection.

9 9-405.

10 (d) (1) Each employer that self-insures under this section shall have in the
11 State [an office run by] a competent individual who handles all [of the] DISPUTED
12 workers' compensation [work] CLAIMS in the State for the employer.

13 (2) Each employer that self-insures under this section shall establish a
14 toll-free telephone number through which an employee or claimant, or a
15 representative of an employee or claimant, may make direct telephone inquiries
16 during regular business hours.

17 (3) The Commission may assess a fine not exceeding \$1,000 on a
18 self-insurer that does not comply with this subsection.

19 9-410.

20 (a) An insurer that provides workers' compensation insurance in the State
21 shall have in the State [an office run by] a competent individual who handles all [of
22 the] DISPUTED workers' compensation [work] CLAIMS in the State for the insurer.

23 (b) An insurer that provides workers' compensation insurance in the State,
24 shall establish a toll-free telephone number through which an insured or claimant, or
25 a representative of an insured or claimant, may make direct telephone inquiries
26 during regular business hours.

27 (c) The Commission may assess a fine not exceeding \$1,000 on an insurer that
28 does not comply with this section.

29 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That, with regard to the
30 changes made in Section 1 of this Act to the office and personnel requirements for
31 governmental self-insurance groups, employers that self-insure, and insurers
32 providing workers' compensation in the State, the Workers' Compensation
33 Commission shall report, on or before November 30, 2002, to the Senate Finance
34 Committee and the House Economic Matters Committee, in accordance with § 2-1246
35 of the State Government Article, on:

36 (1) the number and types of complaints that the Commission has
37 received from October 1, 2001 through November 1, 2002 and the status of those
38 complaints;

1 (2) the number and types of violations that the Commission has
2 identified from October 1, 2001 through November 1, 2002 and the status of those
3 violations; and

4 (3) any recommendations for changes to the law.

5 SECTION ~~2~~ 3. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take
6 effect October 1, 2001. It shall remain effective for a period of 2 years and, at the end
7 of September 30, 2003, with no further action required by the General Assembly, this
8 Act shall be abrogated and of no further force and effect.