

HOUSE BILL 112

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By: **Delegates Stukes, Conaway, Love, Murphy, B. Robinson, and Walker**
Introduced and read first time: January 16, 2013
Assigned to: Economic Matters

A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Task Force to Study Abuse of Workers' Compensation**

3 FOR the purpose of establishing the Task Force to Study Abuse of Workers'
4 Compensation; providing for the composition, chair, and staffing of the Task
5 Force; prohibiting a member of the Task Force from receiving certain
6 compensation, but authorizing the reimbursement of certain expenses;
7 requiring the Task Force to study and make recommendations regarding certain
8 matters; requiring the Task Force to report its finding to the Governor and
9 General Assembly on or before a certain date; providing for the termination of
10 this Act; and generally relating to the Task Force to Study Abuse of Workers'
11 Compensation.

12 SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF
13 MARYLAND, That:

14 (a) There is a Task Force to Study Abuse of Workers' Compensation.

15 (b) The Task Force consists of the following members:

16 (1) three members of the Senate of Maryland, appointed by the
17 President of the Senate;

18 (2) three members of the House of Delegates, appointed by the
19 Speaker of the House;

20 (3) the Commissioner of the Maryland Insurance Administration, or
21 the Commissioner's designee; and

22 (4) the following members, appointed by the Governor:

23 (i) one representative of the Injured Workers' Insurance Fund;

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



1 (ii) one representative of the Workers' Compensation
2 Commission;

3 (iii) three representatives of the business community;

4 (iv) two representatives of Maryland labor organizations,
5 including one representative of a labor organization representing the Maryland
6 building and construction trades;

7 (v) one representative of a self-insured local governmental
8 entity;

9 (vi) two members of the public;

10 (vii) two members of the insurance industry;

11 (viii) one member of the Medical and Chirurgical Faculty of
12 Maryland;

13 (ix) one member of a workers' compensation rating organization;

14 (x) two members of the Bar of the Court of Appeals of
15 Maryland, one of whom represents plaintiffs in workers' compensation cases and one
16 of whom represents defendants in workers' compensation cases; and

17 (xi) one member who is certified by the Workers' Compensation
18 Commission as a Maryland rehabilitation service provider.

19 (c) The Governor shall designate the chair of the Task Force.

20 (d) The Workers' Compensation Commission shall provide staff for the Task
21 Force.

22 (e) A member of the Task Force:

23 (1) may not receive compensation as a member of the Task Force; but

24 (2) is entitled to reimbursement for expenses under the Standard
25 State Travel Regulations, as provided in the State budget.

26 (f) The Task Force shall:

27 (1) study the deterrence, detection, and prosecution of fraud and abuse
28 within the workers' compensation system;

1 (2) study the nature and extent of fraud and abuse in the workers'
2 compensation system, including fraud committed by employers, employees, health care
3 providers, and any other person or entity;

4 (3) study the cost associated with each type of identified fraud;

5 (4) study the approaches adopted in other states to combat workers'
6 compensation fraud, including methods of preventing, identifying, and deterring
7 fraud;

8 (5) make recommendations regarding fraud prevention strategies; and

9 (6) make recommendations regarding legislation to address workers'
10 compensation fraud and abuse.

11 (g) On or before December 1, 2014, the Task Force shall report its findings
12 and recommendations for preventing, identifying, and deterring workers'
13 compensation fraud to the Governor and, in accordance with § 2-1246 of the State
14 Government Article, the General Assembly.

15 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect
16 October 1, 2013. It shall remain effective for a period of 1 year and 9 months and, at
17 the end of June 30, 2015, with no further action required by the General Assembly,
18 this Act shall be abrogated and of no further force and effect.