

Chapter 16

(Senate Bill 65)

AN ACT concerning

Workers' Compensation – Claim Processing – Electronic Delivery of Decisions

FOR the purpose of providing that a copy of certain decisions by the Workers' Compensation Commission may be sent by electronic means to a party or the party's attorney of record under certain circumstances; and generally relating to the delivery of decisions by the Workers' Compensation Commission.

BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,
Article – Labor and Employment
Section 9–308 and 9–714
Annotated Code of Maryland
(2008 Replacement Volume and 2012 Supplement)

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

Article – Labor and Employment

9–308.

(a) Any member of the Commission may conduct a hearing or other investigation for the Commission.

(b) A decision or order of a member of the Commission shall be considered a decision or order of the Commission.

(c) A COPY OF EACH DECISION OR ORDER SHALL BE SENT TO EACH PARTY'S ATTORNEY OF RECORD AND TO EACH UNREPRESENTED PARTY:

(1) BY FIRST-CLASS MAIL; OR

(2) BY ELECTRONIC MEANS, IF THE PARTY'S ATTORNEY OF RECORD CONSENTS OR, IF THE PARTY IS UNREPRESENTED, THE PARTY CONSENTS.

9–714.

(a) When the Commission receives a claim, the Commission:

- (1) may investigate the claim; and
 - (2) on application of any party to the claim, shall order a hearing.
- (b) (1) The Commission shall make or deny an award within 30 days:
- (i) after the mailing of the notice of the filing of a claim; or
 - (ii) if a hearing is held, after the hearing is concluded.

(2) The decision shall be recorded in the principal office of the Commission, and a copy of the decision shall be sent [by first-class mail] to each party's attorney of record or, if the party is unrepresented, to the party:

(I) BY FIRST-CLASS MAIL; OR

(II) BY ELECTRONIC MEANS, IF THE PARTY'S ATTORNEY OF RECORD CONSENTS OR, IF THE PARTY IS UNREPRESENTED, THE PARTY CONSENTS.

SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect October 1, 2013.

Approved by the Governor, April 9, 2013.