



THE MARYLAND HOUSE OF DELEGATES  
ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401

**Testimony in Support of HB915**

Testimony by Delegate Andrew Pruski

February 28, 2024 – Economic Matters Committee

**What the Bill Does:**

This bill is designed to limit the amount of time the Uninsured Employers’ Fund must begin payment on worker’s compensation and applies certain provisions of law if the Uninsured Employers’ Fund fails to do so in a timely manner. It requires that the UEF honor the decisions made by the Workers’ Compensation Commission, and that injured workers receive benefits awarded by the Commission. It also continues to honor the “benevolent purpose” and the remedial nature of the Maryland Workers’ Compensation Act, where the goal is to assist injured workers to recover from injury and return to the workforce.

**Why the Bill is Important:**

The Uninsured Employers’ Fund is a self-funded agency that protects workers from employers who do not possess Worker’s Compensation Insurance. It ensures that awards are properly paid to injured workers and that employers without insurance are liable through sanctions. This bill restricts the time period of the Uninsured Employers’ Fund in the same manner as insurers and employers. It compels the UEF to provide compensation 15 days after an award is made or 15 days after payment is due. This regulation is supported by fines that will be paid to the covered employee. If compensation is not provided after 30 days, then the Uninsured Employers’ Fund will be fined again at an increased amount. This restriction will ensure that injured workers get the compensation they need in a timely manner and holds the UEF to the same rules and standards as other stakeholders.

This bill aims to protect injured workers who have already been victimized due to an employer breaking the law for failing to have workers’ compensation insurance.

**Why the Committee Should Vote Favorably:**

These employees have already faced a lack of insurance from their employer, therefore, require the aid of the Uninsured Employers’ Fund. This bill will further protect such workers that have been exploited by their employees through guaranteeing that they are provided with the compensation the Commission has determined. **On behalf of Maryland’s workers, I urge a favorable report on HB915.**