

BY: Economic Matters Committee

AMENDMENTS TO HOUSE BILL NO. 1257

(First Reading File Bill)

AMENDMENT NO. 1

In line 4, after "insurers" insert "; requiring certain workers' compensation insurers to have a certain office in the State for certain purposes; requiring certain workers' compensation insurers, certain employers, and certain governmental self-insurance groups to establish a toll-free telephone number for certain purposes; altering certain penalties; making certain stylistic changes; and generally relating to office and personnel requirements for workers' compensation insurers and self-insurers"; in line 5, strike "and reenacting, with amendments,"; in line 7, strike "19-401(a)" and substitute "19-401"; after line 9, insert:

"BY adding to

Article - Labor and Employment

Section 9-410

Annotated Code of Maryland

(1999 Replacement Volume)

BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,

Article - Labor and Employment

Section 9-404(g) and 9-405(d)

Annotated Code of Maryland

(1999 Replacement Volume)".

AMENDMENT NO. 2

In line 13, before "19-401." insert an opening bracket; in lines 15 and 16, in each instance, strike the brackets; in line 15, strike "TO"; in line 16, strike "HANDLE"; in the same line, strike "CONTESTED"; in the same line, strike "CLAIMS"; and after line 17, insert:

"(b) (1) A person that violates subsection (a) of this section is guilty of a

(Over)

misdemeanor and on conviction is subject to a fine not exceeding \$1,000.

(2) The Commissioner may revoke the certificate of authority of a person that is convicted under this section.]

Article - Labor and Employment

9-410.

(A) AN INSURER THAT PROVIDES WORKERS' COMPENSATION INSURANCE IN THE STATE SHALL HAVE IN THE STATE AN OFFICE RUN BY A COMPETENT INDIVIDUAL WHO HANDLES ALL OF THE WORKERS' COMPENSATION WORK IN THE STATE FOR THE INSURER.

(B) AN INSURER THAT PROVIDES WORKERS' COMPENSATION INSURANCE IN THE STATE, SHALL ESTABLISH A TOLL-FREE TELEPHONE NUMBER THROUGH WHICH AN INSURED OR CLAIMANT, OR A REPRESENTATIVE OF AN INSURED OR CLAIMANT, MAY MAKE DIRECT TELEPHONE INQUIRIES DURING REGULAR BUSINESS HOURS.

(C) THE COMMISSION MAY ASSESS A FINE NOT EXCEEDING \$1,000 ON AN INSURER THAT DOES NOT COMPLY WITH THIS SECTION.

9-404.

(g) (1) Each governmental self-insurance group shall have in the State an office run by a competent individual who handles all of the workers' compensation work in the State for the governmental self-insurance group.

[(2) A governmental self-insurance group that violates any provision of this subsection is guilty of a misdemeanor and on conviction is subject to a fine not exceeding \$1,000.

(3) The Commission may prohibit self-insurance by a governmental self-insurance group that is convicted under this subsection.]

(2) EACH GOVERNMENTAL SELF-INSURANCE GROUP SHALL ESTABLISH A TOLL-FREE TELEPHONE NUMBER THROUGH WHICH AN EMPLOYEE OR CLAIMANT, OR A REPRESENTATIVE OF AN EMPLOYEE OR CLAIMANT, MAY MAKE

DIRECT TELEPHONE INQUIRIES DURING REGULAR BUSINESS HOURS.

(3) THE COMMISSION MAY ASSESS A FINE NOT EXCEEDING \$1,000 ON A GOVERNMENTAL SELF-INSURANCE GROUP THAT DOES NOT COMPLY WITH THIS SUBSECTION.

9-405.

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

[(2) An employer who violates any provision of this subsection is guilty of a misdemeanor and on conviction is subject to a fine not exceeding \$1,000.

(3) The Commission may prohibit self-insurance by an employer who is convicted under this subsection.]

(2) EACH EMPLOYER THAT SELF-INSURES UNDER THIS SECTION SHALL ESTABLISH A TOLL-FREE TELEPHONE NUMBER THROUGH WHICH AN EMPLOYEE OR CLAIMANT, OR A REPRESENTATIVE OF AN EMPLOYEE OR CLAIMANT, MAY MAKE DIRECT TELEPHONE INQUIRIES DURING REGULAR BUSINESS HOURS.

(3) THE COMMISSION MAY ASSESS A FINE NOT EXCEEDING \$1,000 ON A SELF-INSURER THAT DOES NOT COMPLY WITH THIS SUBSECTION.”.

AMENDMENT NO. 3

In line 19, strike “October” and substitute “June”.