

BY: Finance Committee

AMENDMENTS TO HOUSE BILL NO. 1223

(Third Reading File Bill)

AMENDMENT NO. 1

On page 1, in line 2, strike “Insurers and Self-Insurers”; in line 4, after “certain” insert “governmental self-insurance groups,”; in line 5, after “self-insure” insert a comma; in line 6, after “State” insert “; requiring the Workers’ Compensation Commission to report on or before a certain date to certain committees of the General Assembly; providing for the termination of this Act; and generally relating to office and personnel requirements for certain governmental self-insurance groups, employers that self-insure, and insurers providing workers’ compensation insurance in the State”; and in line 9, strike “9-405(d)” and substitute “9-404(g), 9-405(d),”.

AMENDMENT NO. 2

On page 1, after line 14, insert:

“9-404.

(g) (1) Each governmental self-insurance group shall have in the State an office run by a competent individual who:

(I) handles [all of the] EACH DISPUTED workers’ compensation [work] CLAIM in the State for the governmental self-insurance group; AND

(II) POSSESSES THE KNOWLEDGE AND EXPERIENCE TO HANDLE AND ADJUST DISPUTED CLAIMS.

(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.

(Over)

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

and strike beginning with “Each” in line 16 down through “employer” in line 18 and substitute “EACH EMPLOYER THAT SELF-INSURES UNDER THIS SECTION SHALL HAVE IN THE STATE AN OFFICE RUN BY A COMPETENT INDIVIDUAL WHO:

(I) HANDLES EACH DISPUTED WORKERS’ COMPENSATION CLAIM IN THE STATE FOR THE EMPLOYER; AND

(II) POSSESSES THE KNOWLEDGE AND EXPERIENCE TO HANDLE AND ADJUST DISPUTED CLAIMS”.

On page 2, strike beginning with “An” in line 4 down through “insurer” in line 6 and substitute “AN INSURER THAT PROVIDES WORKERS’ COMPENSATION INSURANCE IN THE STATE SHALL HAVE IN THE STATE AN OFFICE RUN BY A COMPETENT INDIVIDUAL WHO:

(1) HANDLES EACH DISPUTED WORKERS’ COMPENSATION CLAIM IN THE STATE FOR THE INSURER; AND

(2) POSSESSES THE KNOWLEDGE AND EXPERIENCE TO HANDLE AND ADJUST DISPUTED CLAIMS”.

AMENDMENT NO. 3

On page 2, after line 12, insert:

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

- (1) the number and types of complaints that the Commission has received from October 1, 2001 through November 1, 2002 and the status of those complaints;
- (2) the number and types of violations that the Commission has identified from October 1, 2001 through November 1, 2002 and the status of those violations; and
- (3) any recommendations for changes to the law.”;

in line 13, strike “2.” and substitute “3.”; and in line 14, after “2001.” insert “It shall remain effective for a period of 2 years and, at the end of September 30, 2003, with no further action required by the General Assembly, this Act shall be abrogated and of no further force and effect.”.