
By: **Delegates Krysiak, Harrison, McHale, and Moe**

Introduced and read first time: February 2, 2006

Assigned to: Economic Matters

A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Joint Committee on Workers' Compensation Benefit and Insurance**
3 **Oversight - Membership**

4 FOR the purpose of increasing the membership of the Joint Committee on Workers'
5 Compensation Benefit and Insurance Oversight to include a certain member;
6 providing for the qualifications of an additional member; making certain
7 stylistic changes; and generally relating to the membership of the Joint
8 Committee on Workers' Compensation Benefit and Insurance Oversight.

9 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,
10 Article - State Government
11 Section 2-10A-03
12 Annotated Code of Maryland
13 (2004 Replacement Volume and 2005 Supplement)

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

16 **Article - State Government**

17 2-10A-03.

18 (a) There is a Joint Committee on Workers' Compensation Benefit and
19 Insurance Oversight.

20 (b) (1) The Committee consists of [14] 15 members.

21 (2) Of the [14] 15 members:

22 (i) 1. 2 shall be members of the Senate appointed by the
23 President of the Senate;

24 2. 2 shall be Delegates appointed by the Speaker; and

25 (ii) [10] 11 shall be appointed jointly by the President and the
26 Speaker as follows:

- 1 1. 1 representative of the business community;
- 2 2. 1 representative of the Maryland labor organizations;
- 3 3. 1 representative of the Maryland building and
4 construction labor organizations;
- 5 4. 2 members of the public;
- 6 5. 1 member of the insurance industry;
- 7 6. 1 member of the Medical and Chirurgical Faculty of
8 Maryland;
- 9 7. 1 member of a workers' compensation rating organization;
10 [and]
- 11 8. 2 members of the Bar of the Court of Appeals of Maryland,
12 1 of whom represents plaintiffs in workers' compensation cases and 1 of whom
13 represents defendants in workers' compensation cases; AND
- 14 9. 1 MEMBER WHO IS CERTIFIED BY THE WORKERS'
15 COMPENSATION COMMISSION AS A MARYLAND REHABILITATION SERVICE
16 PROVIDER.

17 (c) The members of the Committee serve at the pleasure of the presiding
18 officer who appointed them.

19 (d) The President and the Speaker shall jointly appoint a Senator and a
20 Delegate each to serve as [cochairman] COCHAIR.

21 (e) (1) (i) The Committee shall examine and evaluate:

22 1. the condition of the workers' compensation benefit and
23 insurance structure in the State; and

24 2. the effect of Chapters 590 and 591 of the Laws of
25 Maryland of 1987 on that structure.

26 (ii) This examination shall include the regulations adopted by the
27 Workers' Compensation Commission that are to be used by physicians to measure
28 impairment when preparing medical evaluations of claimants.

29 (2) The Committee shall review the adequacy and appropriateness of all
30 benefits specified in §§ 9-626 and 9-627(a) and (b) of the Labor and Employment
31 Article and make recommendations for necessary changes prior to the 1992 Regular
32 Session of the General Assembly.

33 (3) The Committee shall direct the Insurance Commissioner to prepare a
34 feasibility study on alternative methods to determine the provision for claim payment

1 and to submit the study to the Governor and the Legislative Policy Committee on or
2 before January 1, 1991.

3 (f) The Insurance Commissioner and the Workers' Compensation Commission
4 shall:

5 (1) cooperate fully with the Committee;

6 (2) keep the Committee fully informed as to the condition of workers'
7 compensation benefits and workers' compensation insurance in the State and the
8 effect of Chapters 590 and 591 of the Laws of Maryland of 1987 on those benefits and
9 that insurance; and

10 (3) submit an annual report, subject to § 2-1246 of this title, to the
11 Committee on or before October 1 of each year that incorporates the information
12 described in paragraph (2) of this subsection.

13 (g) The Committee shall report to the Governor and the Legislative Policy
14 Committee on December 31 of each year.

15 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take
16 effect October 1, 2006.