

**Department of Legislative Services**  
Maryland General Assembly  
2006 Session

**FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE**  
**Revised**

House Bill 627

(Delegate Krysiak, *et al.*)

Economic Matters

Budget and Taxation

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

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This bill increases from 14 to 16 the number of members on the Joint Committee on Workers' Compensation Benefit and Insurance Oversight. One additional member is appointed by the President and Speaker and must be certified by the Workers' Compensation Commission (WCC) as a Maryland rehabilitation service provider. The other member must be a representative of the Injured Workers' Insurance Fund (IWIF).

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**Fiscal Summary**

**State Effect:** Any expense reimbursements for the additional committee member are assumed to be minimal and absorbable within existing budgeted resources.

**Local Effect:** None.

**Small Business Effect:** None.

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**Analysis**

**Current Law:** The Joint Committee on Workers' Compensation Benefit and Insurance Oversight is to examine and evaluate the condition of the workers' compensation benefit and insurance structure in the State. The examination must include the regulations adopted by WCC that are used by physicians to measure impairments when preparing medical evaluations of claimants. The committee is also to review the adequacy and appropriateness of all workers' compensation benefits and make recommendations for necessary changes. The current committee includes representatives from various

industries and professions including the insurance industry, the business community, and the medical profession.

**Background:** Certain practitioners must be certified or registered before providing vocational rehabilitation services for an injured worker. Practitioners providing vocational rehabilitation services for more than three injured workers per year are required to be certified by WCC. Practitioners providing vocational rehabilitation services for three or less injured workers per year are required to be registered with WCC. Rehabilitation practitioners are individuals who provide vocational rehabilitation services for injured workers. Rehabilitation practitioners include but are not limited to nurses certified by the State Board of Nursing as nurse case managers, rehabilitation counselors, vocational evaluators, and case managers who provide certain services.

IWIF has provided workers' compensation insurance to Maryland businesses since 1914 and acts as claims administrator for all State employees. IWIF is a fully self-supporting insurance company that operates solely from premium and investment income. A nine-member, Governor-appointed board of directors oversees its general operations. IWIF is the leading writer of workers' compensation insurance in Maryland, handling approximately one-third of all State policies.

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### **Additional Information**

**Prior Introductions:** None.

**Cross File:** None.

**Information Source(s):** Department of Legislative Services

**Fiscal Note History:** First Reader - March 6, 2006  
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