



THE MARYLAND HOUSE OF DELEGATES
ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401

Testimony in Support of HB0590

Testimony by Delegate Andrew Pruski

February 24, 2023 – Economic Matters Committee

What the Bill Does:

The intention of HB 590 is meant to update our Workers' Compensation statutes to a reasonable and fair standard. There are three major topics covered in this bill and the rationale for change is due to legal and medical arguments. The first change addresses offsets and updating our statute to better reflect that it is possible for an employee to receive workers compensation for the same accidental injury or occupational disease. The second change relates to hearing loss and how it is calculated. The third change is to recognize that Tinnitus should be considered when reviewing an employee's hearing loss.

Why the Bill is Important:

Workers in Maryland deserve a fair and reasonable process for Workers Compensation. This bill is meant to update statutes to better reflect due process and clarity to benefits. It is important for workers to be allowed due process and to have laws that reflect job related injuries. Please note that this bill does not guarantee that compensation is awarded. There is still a requirement for the employee to prove the claim and an affirmative decision to award any benefit.

Why the Committee Should Vote Favorably:

HB590 will update our Workers' Compensation statutes to better reflect due process and employee coverage. Updating the offset language, hearing loss threshold, and adding Tinnitus in the Workers' Compensation Statute would improve standards and address several legal issues. Based upon both medical and legal arguments, **we would ask for a Favorable Report for the bill.**