

LEGISLATIVE POSITION:

Favorable
Senate Bill 830 - Workers' Compensation - Claims Application Form - Authorization for Release of Information
Finance Committee
Tuesday, February 25, 2025

Dear Chair Beidle and Members of the Committee:

Founded in 1968, the Maryland Chamber of Commerce is the leading voice for business in Maryland. We are a statewide coalition of more than 7,000 members and federated partners working to develop and promote strong public policy that ensures sustained economic health and growth for Maryland businesses, employees, and families.

Senate Bill 830 (SB 830) adds to the entities authorized to receive workers' compensation claim information to include the Uninsured Employers' Fund and the Subsequent Injury Fund. It also broadens the required release of information to include additional claims filed by the claimant and records maintained by the Workers' Compensation Commission (WCC).

WCC recently implemented a new paperless claims system, which inadvertently restricted employer and insurer access to claim history information – information that has always been a key factor in the fair and efficient resolution of claims. SB 830 corrects this oversight by streamlining access to relevant claims data, eliminating the need for employers and insurers to issue subpoenas to the WCC.

The ability to review prior and subsequent claim information is crucial in determining the apportionment of liability, relationship of an injury, and other key information. SB 830 provides a common-sense solution by ensuring that necessary stakeholders – such as employers, insurers, and legal representatives – have access to relevant claims data while maintaining appropriate privacy protections for injured workers.

For these reasons, the Maryland Chamber of Commerce respectfully requests a <u>favorable report</u> on **SB 830**.