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—
Vice Chair
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Executive Nominations Committee

—
Joint Committees

Administrative, Executive, and
Legislative Review

Unemployment Insurance Oversight

THE SENATE OF MARYLAND
ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401

Tuesday, February 25, 2025

Testimony in Support of Senate Bill 0830 - Workers' Compensation - Claims Application
Form - Authorization for Release of Information

Dear Chair Beidle and Members of the Senate Finance Committee,

I am writing in strong support of Senate Bill 0830, which seeks to improve the efficiency and accessibility of workers' compensation claim records through the CompHub system. This legislation addresses a long-standing issue that impacts claimants, attorneys, employers, insurers, and state agencies involved in the workers' compensation process.

Currently, parties involved in a workers' compensation claim must engage in a time-consuming and inefficient subpoena process to locate records relevant to a particular claimant's case. This often results in unnecessary delays, administrative burdens, and additional costs. SB0830 provides a commonsense solution by clarifying the entities that must be granted authorization to access this information and ensuring that critically relevant records are available without the need for excessive procedural hurdles.

Specifically, this legislation:

- **Expands Access to Essential Information** – The bill authorizes claimants to release pertinent claim information to their attorney, employer, insurer, and key state entities such as the Uninsured Employers' Fund and the Subsequent Injury Fund. This ensures that all relevant stakeholders have the necessary information to fairly and efficiently process claims.

- Clarifies the Scope of Released Information – By specifying the types of records that can be accessed, including medical and financial records, patient charts, examination notes, and prior claims information, SB0830 enhances transparency while maintaining appropriate safeguards.
- Establishes a Defined Authorization Period – Under this bill, a claimant’s authorization for record access will be valid for one year from the date the claim is filed, reducing confusion and ensuring continuity in the claims process.
- Promotes Administrative Efficiency – By eliminating the need for extensive subpoenas and unnecessary document searches, SB0830 streamlines case management for all involved parties.

To further strengthen this bill, I submitted an amendment to also apply these provisions to LE § 9-710(b) and § 9-711(a), ensuring consistency in workers' compensation procedures.

This legislation is a crucial step toward modernizing the claims process and reducing administrative delays that burden both workers and employers. I respectfully urge the committee to support Senate Bill 0830 and move it forward with a favorable report.

Thank you for your consideration.

Respectfully,



Senator Antonio L. Hayes
40th Legislative District – MD