

# **SB 830 Testimony (Finance).pdf**

Uploaded by: Antonio Hayes

Position: FAV

**ANTONIO HAYES**  
*Legislative District 40*  
Baltimore City

—  
*Vice Chair*  
Finance Committee



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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  
40<sup>th</sup> Legislative District – MD

# **SB830\_SponsorAmendment\_783029**

Uploaded by: Antonio Hayes

Position: FAV



SB0830/783029/1

AMENDMENTS  
PREPARED  
BY THE  
DEPT. OF LEGISLATIVE  
SERVICES

25 FEB 25  
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BY: Senator Hayes  
(To be offered in the Finance Committee)

AMENDMENTS TO SENATE BILL 830  
(First Reading File Bill)

AMENDMENT NO. 1

On page 1, in line 10, after “9–709(a)” insert “, 9–710(b), and 9–711(a)”.

AMENDMENT NO. 2

On page 2, after line 21, insert:

“9–710.

(b) (1) If a covered employee dies from an accidental personal injury, the dependents of the covered employee or an individual on their behalf shall, within 18 months after the date of death, file with the Commission:

- (i) a claim application form;
- (ii) proof of death;
- (iii) certificates of any physician who attended the covered employee; and
- (iv) any other proof that the Commission may require by regulation.

(2) (i) A claim application form filed under paragraph (1) of this subsection shall include an authorization by the claimant for the release, to the claimant’s attorney, THE UNINSURED EMPLOYERS’ FUND, THE SUBSEQUENT INJURY FUND, the covered employee’s employer, and the insurer of the covered

employee's employer, or an agent of the claimant's attorney, **THE UNINSURED EMPLOYERS' FUND, THE SUBSEQUENT INJURY FUND**, the covered employee's employer, or the insurer of the covered employee's employer, of medical **AND FINANCIAL** information that [is] **MAY BE** relevant to:

1. the member of the body that was injured, as indicated on the claim application form; and

2. the description of how the accidental personal injury occurred, as indicated on the claim application form.

(ii) An authorization under subparagraph (i) of this paragraph:

1. includes the release of information relating to the history, findings, office and patient charts, files, examination and progress notes, [and] physical evidence, **AND ADDITIONAL CLAIMS FILED BY THE CLAIMANT;**

2. **INCLUDES THE RELEASE OF INFORMATION IN THE CUSTODY OF THE COMMISSION;**

[2.] 3. is effective for 1 year from the date the claim is filed;  
and

[3.] 4. does not restrict the redisclosure of medical information or written material relating to the authorization to a medical manager, health care professional, or certified rehabilitation practitioner.

9-711.

(a) (1) If a covered employee suffers a disablement or death as a result of an occupational disease, the covered employee or the dependents of the covered

employee shall file a claim application form with the Commission within 2 years, or in the case of pulmonary dust disease within 3 years, after the date:

(i) of disablement or death; or

(ii) when the covered employee or the dependents of the covered employee first had actual knowledge that the disablement was caused by the employment.

(2) (i) A claim application form filed under paragraph (1) of this subsection shall include an authorization by the claimant for the release, to the claimant's attorney, **THE UNINSURED EMPLOYERS' FUND, THE SUBSEQUENT INJURY FUND**, the claimant's or covered employee's employer, and the insurer of the claimant's or covered employee's employer, or an agent of the claimant's attorney, **THE UNINSURED EMPLOYERS' FUND, THE SUBSEQUENT INJURY FUND**, the claimant's or covered employee's employer, or the insurer of the claimant's or covered employee's employer, of medical AND FINANCIAL information that [is] **MAY BE** relevant to:

1. the member of the body that was injured, as indicated on the claim application form; and

2. the description of how the occupational disease occurred, as indicated on the claim application form.

(ii) An authorization under subparagraph (i) of this paragraph:

1. includes the release of information relating to the history, findings, office and patient charts, files, examination and progress notes, [and] physical evidence, AND ADDITIONAL CLAIMS FILED BY THE CLAIMANT;

**2. INCLUDES THE RELEASE OF INFORMATION IN THE CUSTODY OF THE COMMISSION;**

[2.] 3. is effective for 1 year from the date the claim is filed;  
and

[3.] 4. does not restrict the redisclosure of medical information or written material relating to the authorization to a medical manager, health care professional, or certified rehabilitation practitioner.”.



# **SB 830\_Workers' Compensation - Claims Application**

Uploaded by: Hannah Allen

Position: FAV



**MARYLAND**  
Chamber of Commerce

**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 **favorable report** on **SB 830**.

**MDCHAMBER.ORG**

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**SB0830.pdf**

Uploaded by: H. Scott Curtis

Position: FWA

SB0830: Amendments to LE § 9-709(a)

Reason for the bill is to improve parties' access through CompHub to critically important records in the claim file. Currently, the parties to a particular claim need to go on a subpoena-powered fishing trip through decades of Commission files to locate any records that (*First*) pertain to a particular claimant and (*Second*) might be relevant to their current claim (for example, a re-injured or previously injured body part). Finally, the amendments make explicit that the parties include the UEF and SIF, other state agencies with a stake in the process.

1. **Purpose of the Bill:** The bill aims to alter the entities to which and the information of which a claimant must authorize the release in a workers' compensation claim application.
2. **Entities Authorized for Information Release:** The bill specifies that the claimant must authorize the release of information to the claimant's attorney, the Uninsured Employers' Fund, the Subsequent Injury Fund, the claimant's employer, and the insurer of the claimant's employer.
3. **Types of Information Released:** The authorization includes the release of medical and financial information relevant to the injury and the description of how the injury occurred. It also includes the release of information relating to the history, findings, office and patient charts, files, examination and progress notes, physical evidence, *and additional claims filed by the claimant*; including information in the custody of the Commission.
4. **Duration of Authorization:** The authorization is effective for one year from the date the claim is filed.
5. **Effective Date:** The Act is set to take effect on October 1, 2025.

**NOTE:**

**Important Housekeeping Matter: We need to AMEND SB 0830 to apply these same changes to LE § 9-710(b) and § 9-711(a), as well.**