

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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STATE OF MAINE
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES (Filing No. H-907)
109TH LEGISLATURE
SECOND REGULAR SESSION

COMMITTEE AMENDMENT "A" to H.P. 1795, L.D. 1911, Bill,
"AN ACT to Provide for Improved Information on Workers'
Compensation and to Provide Funds for Full-time Workers' Compensation
Commissioners."

Amend the Bill by striking out everything after the enacting
clause and inserting in its place the following:

'Sec. 1. 39 MRSA §99, as last amended by PL 1977, c. 613,
§2 and c. 632, §§ 1 and 2, is further amended by adding at the
end a new paragraph to read:

In any case upon which a commissioner whose term has expired
has completed hearing all of the evidence, that commissioner
shall render a decision on that case as soon as practicable. That
decision has the same effect as if it were rendered by a
commissioner whose term had not expired. Any commissioner whose
term has expired is entitled to ←—————→ \$50 per day for
each day spent preparing and issuing any decision under this
paragraph.

Sec. 2. 39 MRSA §108, as amended by PL 1975, c. 771, §425,
is repealed and the following enacted in its place:

§108. Reports

The Director of the Bureau of Labor shall provide an annual
report relating to the number and character of occupational
injuries and illnesses and their effect, as required under Title 26,
section 42.

The chairman of the commission shall further assist the
Director of the Bureau of Labor to assure that necessary information

regarding the administrative processes, costs and other factors related to the Workers' Compensation Act and the Occupational Disease Law are included in the report. The Superintendent of Insurance shall assist the Director of the Bureau of Labor by providing the following information on an annual basis: A tabulation of premium and loss data, on an accrual accounting basis, regarding those insurance companies authorized by the Bureau of Insurance to write workers' compensation in the State, together with similar data for self-insurance worker compensation plans regulated by the Bureau of Insurance.

The chairman of the commission, the Director of the Bureau of Labor and the Superintendent of Insurance shall provide such further occasional reports through their joint or individual efforts as they deem necessary to the improved function and administration of the Workers' Compensation Act and the Occupational Disease Law.

Sec. 3. Appropriation. The following funds are appropriated from the General Fund to carry out the purposes of this Act.

1980-81

WORKERS' COMPENSATION COMMISSION

Personal Services \$37,874'

Statement of Fact

This amendment addresses a current problem in the workers' compensation system.

There presently exists a number of workers' compensation cases upon which all the evidence in the case has been heard by a commissioner whose term expired before he could issue a decision. This amendment permits him to issue a decision in those

cases even though his term has expired and states that those decisions shall have the same effect as if they were made by a commissioner whose term has not expired.

The amendment also clarifies the information to be provided by the Superintendent of Insurance and encourages such further occasional reports as may lead to the improved function and administration of the Workers' Compensation Act and the Occupational Disease Law.

The amendment also adjusts the funds needed to pay the salaries of the full-time workers' compensation commissioners.

Reported by the Majority of the Committee on Labor
Reproduced and distributed under the direction of the Clerk of the
House
3/13/80 (Filing No. H-907)