

STATE OF MAINE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES (Filing No. H-908) 109TH LEGISLATURE SECOND REGULAR SESSION

COMMITTEE AMENDMENT """ 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. 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 $\langle \cdot \rangle$ entitled to $\langle ---- \rangle$ \$50 per day for each day spent preparing and issuing any decision under this paragraph.

Sec. 2. 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 Morkers' Compensation

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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.

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

This amendment omits any changes in the existing obligation of the Bureau of Labor to provide reports dealing with occupational injuries and illnesses and their effects.

Reported by the Minority of the Committee on Labor Reproduced and distributed under the direction of the Clerk of the House 3/13/80 (Filing No. H-908)