

		FIR	ST RE	GULAR SE	ESSION		
	ONE	HUNDRE	D AND	TWELFTH	H LEGIS	LATURE	
Legisla	tive Docu	ment					No. 1023
H.P. 71	3			House of 1	Represent	atives, Marc	h 13, 1985
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1 Commissioner of Environmental Protection; 2 Commissioner of Human Services: 3 Commissioner of Mental Health and Mental Retarda-4 tion; 5 Commissioner of Public Safety; 6 Commissioner of Business, Occupational and Pro-7 fessional Regulation; 8 Commissioner of Labor; 9 Commissioner of Personnel; Commissioner of Agriculture, Food and Rural Re-10 11 sources: 12 Commissioner of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife; 13 Commissioner of Marine Resources; and 14Commissioner of Corrections; and 15 Executive Director of the Workers' Compensation 16 Insurance Fund. 17 Sec. 2. 5 MRSA §12004, sub-§7, as amended by PL 1983, c. 863, Pt. B, §§42 and 45, is further amended 18 19 to read:

20 Financing and administrative organization. 7. 21 Financing and administrative organizations have the 22 primary responsibilities to finance construction of projects, new businesses or business expansions; to 23 24 administer pension funds, insurance funds or the pro-25 ceeds of bond sales; and administer organizations created to fulfill these responsibilities. The pri-26 27 mary powers of these boards, in addition to the au-28 thority to hold hearings, adopt rules and establish procedures and standards, include the authority 29 to 30 lease or acquire property, sell bonds, invest income, borrow money, hold adjudicatory proceedings and en-31 32 ter into contracts.

A. This classification includes the followingboards:

	NAME OF ORGANIZATION	RATE OF STATUTORY COMPENSATION REFERENCE
(1)	Maine Turnpike Authority	Legislative 23 MRSA §1965 Per Diem
(2)	Maine Port Authority	\$25/day 23 MRSA §4420
(3)	Maine Health and Higher Edu- cational Facilities Authority	Expenses 22 MRSA §2054 only
(4)	Maine School Build- ing Authority	Expenses 20-A MRSA §15704 only
(5)	Finance Authority of Maine	Legislative 10 MRSA §964 Per Diem
(6)	Maine State Housing Authority	Legislative 30 MRSA Per Diem §4601-A
(7)	Board of Trustees, Maine State Retirement System	\$50/day 5 MRSA §1031
(8)	Board of Trustees, Maine Judicial Retire- ment System	\$50/day 4 MRSA §1231
<u>(9)</u>	Workers' Compensation Insurance Fund Board	\$50/day 39 MRSA §270
21 22	Sec. 3. 39 MRSA §22-C, 1983, c. 816, Pt. B, §23, is a	
23	§22-C. Approval of insurance	policies and rates
24 25 26	The following provisions a of insurance policies and rate of Insurance.	
27 28 29 30 31	1. <u>Policies.</u> Every in: workers' compensation insurance payment of compensation and be this Act <u>and the Workers' Com</u> shall file with the Superinter	ce policies covering the enefits provided for in pensation Insurance Fund
32 33 34	A. A copy of the form of may not be issued until approved the form; and	

Page 3-L.D. 1023

1B. Its classification of risks and their premium2rates and any subsequent proposed classifications3and premium rates, which may not take effect un-4til the superintendent has approved them.

5 Premium rates less than those approved may be used 6 and filed with the superintendent. If the superin-7 tendent has reason to believe that the filing 8 produces rates which are inadequate or unfairly dis-9 criminatory, he may disapprove them under Title 24-A, 10 chapters 23 and 25.

11 2. <u>Approval of rates</u>. The superintendent shall 12 apply the procedures and standards of this section in 13 investigating, reviewing and approving or disapprov-14 ing rates.

- A. He may require the filing of specific rates
  for workers' compensation insurance, including
  classifications of risks, experience or any other
  rating information from insurance companies authorized to transact insurance in this State and
  the Workers' Compensation Insurance Fund.
- B. He may make or cause to be made investigations as he may deem necessary to satisfy himself
  that the rates to be promulgated are just and
  reasonable.
- C. He may at any time, after public hearing,
  withdraw his approval of a previously approved
  rate filing.

28 3. <u>Contents of filing</u>. A rate filing shall in-29 clude, for each company included in the filing <u>or the</u> 30 <u>fund</u>:

- 31 A. For each of the 3 calendar years immediately32 preceding the date of the filing:
- 33 (1) The actual gross earned premiums allo-34 cable to the coverage of risks in this 35 State;
- 36(2) For unearned premium, earned premium,37loss and loss expense reserve funds, and38capital and surplus subject to investment,

Page 4-L.D. 1023

1 2	allocable to the coverage of risks in this State:
3	<ul><li>(a) The amount of investments of each</li></ul>
4	type of funds;
5 6	(b) The types of investments of all of these funds; and
7	(c) The annual income amounts, before
8	taxes, generated by the aggregate of
9	these investments;
10 11	(3) The gross rate of return on admitted assets;
12	(4) The amount of dividends or the equiva-
13	lent allowed or returned to policyholders,
14	members or subscribers;
15	(5) The aggregate annual expenses allocable
16	to the coverage of risks in this State, in-
17	cluding acquisition and field supervision
18	expenses, taxes, licenses and fees, other
19	than federal income tax, and general ex-
20	penses, each stated separately. Safety en-
21	gineering expense and loss control services'
22	expense shall be stated separately under
23	general expense;
24	(6) The aggregate annual losses and loss
25	adjustment expense allocable to the coverage
26	of risks in this State;
27	(7) The total loss reserves for this cover-
28	age being held at the beginning and end of
29	each calendar year and the annual paid
30	losses, including methods and interest rates
31	used in determining present value for the
32	reserves to which they apply; and
33	(8) The changes and improvements instituted
34	in loss control and employee safety engi-
35	neering;
36 B.	For each risk classification:

Page 5-L.D. 1023

- 1 (1) The rate presently applicable to the 2 classification;
- 3 4

(2) The rate proposed for the classification;

5 (3) Loss experience in this State for each 6 of the 3 most recent years available, in-7 cluding, in each classification, payroll, 8 of serious workers' compensation number 9 cases, number of nonserious cases, the 10 losses, including medical expenses incurred with respect to each type of case, loss ad-11 12 justment expense and the total of all losses 13 and expenses incurred; and

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(4) The information required by this paragraph shall be presented in tabular form;

16 C. If data reported is determined by percentage
17 factors, rather than actual expense, there shall
18 be stated an explanation of the basis of the fac19 tors used;

20 D. Statements or exhibits that reasonably sub-21 stantiate assumptions, methodology or calcula-22 tions used in support of the proposed rates or to 23 generate the information or data in the filing; 24 and identification of any of those that are known 25 or believed to be contrary to established policy 26 of the superintendent; and

27 E. Any other information required to be included28 by the superintendent.

Aggregate data. Aggregate expense data, 29 an-4. 30 nual loss and loss adjustment expense data and loss 31 experience data required to be reported under subsec-32 tion 3, paragraph A, subparagraphs (5) and (6) and 33 paragraph B, subparagraph (3) shall be based on ex-34 pense and experience data pertaining to this State, except as otherwise provided in this subsection. 35 The 36 profit factor used in establishing the rates re-37 quested, the rate of return on the investment allocable to the coverage of risks in this State repre-sented by that profit factor, and the facts, assump-38 39 tions and calculations employed to derive that profit 40

factor and rate of return shall also be reported in 1 2 the aggregate. 3 To the extent that the Maine expense and ex-Α. 4 perience data is not fully credible, the superin-5 tendent may allow reporting of and consider data 6 from outside this State. 7 в. Aggregate loss experience data shall: 8 (1) Include and be categorized as required 9 in subsection 3, paragraph B, subparagraph 10 (3); and 11 (2) Be presented in tabular form. The ta-12 bles shall indicate, with respect to each classification, the relative weight given to experience in this State and to national ex-13 14 15 perience in determining the applicable rate. 16 5. Additional information. The superintendent may require, at any time, any additional information 17 he deems necessary and may reasonably extend the time 18 19 periods established in subsection 9 to allow time to 20 provide that information. 21 Standard for approval. 6. The provisions of this subsection apply to approval or disapproval of 22 23 rate filings. 24 A. To approve a rate filing, the superintendent 25 shall find that, from the filing and sworn testi-26 mony, the rating organization or insurer has established, in addition to all other requirements, 27 28 that: 29 (1) The proposed rates are just and reasonable and not excessive, inadequate 30 or un-31 fairly discriminatory; 32 (2) The profit factor used in establishing 33 the rate requested will produce only a just 34 reasonable return on investment allocaand 35 ble to the coverage of risks in this State; 36 and 37 (3) The reported loss reserves, including

Page 7-L.D. 1023

1 the discount rates applied to those re-2 serves, are reasonable. 3 In determining if the proposed rates are just в. 4 reasonable, the superintendent shall considand 5 er: 6 (1)The profit factor used in establishing the rate requested and its relationship to 7 8 the return on the investment allocable to 9 the coverage of risks in this State; 10 (2) The reported investment income earned 11 or realized from funds generated from busi-12 ness in this State; 13 (3) The reported loss reserves, including 14 the methods and the interest rates used in 15 determining the present value for reported 16 reserves; 17 (4) Reported annual losses and loss adjust-18 ment expenses; 19 The measures taken to contain (5) costs, 20 including loss control, loss adjustment and 21 employee safety engineering programs; 2.2 (6) The relationship of the aggregate 23 amount of operating expenses reported by all 24 companies to the annual operating expenses 25 reported in the filing and the annual insur-26 ance expense exhibits filed by each company with the bureau; and 27 28 (7) The operating and management efficiency 29 of the companies or the fund. 30 C. The justness and reasonableness of rates 31 shall be determined for the period in which the 32 rates shall be in effect. 33 The rating organization or insurer shall have D. 34 the burden of proving that the proposed rates meet the requirements of this section and Title 35 36 24-A, chapters 23 and 25.

Page 8-L.D. 1023

E. A rate filing may not be approved unless the superintendent finds that the information supplied in the filing and sworn testimony is accurate and sufficient to meet the requirements of this section.

6 7. <u>Public record</u>. A rate filing shall be a pub-7 lic record and shall be available for public review 8 and inspection.

9 Information for parties and intervenors. А 8. intervenor may make written application to 10 party or 11 the superintendent for an order that a rating organi-12 which has presented a filing, zation or insurer, 13 produce any information relevant to whether the fil-14 ing rates meet the requirements of this section and Title 24-A, except for information relating to a par-15 16 ticular claim. If the rating organization or insurer 17 fails to furnish the information within the time pre-18 scribed by the superintendent, the party or interve-19 nor making the request may make written application 20 superintendent for an order disapproving the to the 21 filing. If, after a hearing, the superintendent determines that the failure to furnish the information 22 23 was without good cause, he shall issue an order for 24 disapproval of the filing.

25 9. Public hearing. The superintendent shall hold a public hearing, as provided in 26 Title 24-A, 27 sections 229 and 235, on each filing. The public 28 hearing shall be conducted not sooner than 30 davs 29 and not later than 120 days of the receipt of the 30 rate filing by the Bureau of Insurance, unless he ex-31 tends these limits under subsection 5. The superin-32 tendent shall approve or disapprove that filing and 33 state his findings in a written order issued within 34 180 days from the receipt of the filings by the bu-35 reau, unless he extends this limit under subsection 36 5. If the superintendent denies a filing, any fur-37 ther filing shall be deemed to be a new filing, sub-38 ject to this public hearing requirement.

39 10. <u>Subsequent filing</u>. A rating organization or
 40 insurer may not file a rate filing within 180 days of
 41 receiving approval of a prior rate filing.

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11. Procedures; rules. Subject to the applica-

1 ble requirements of the Maine Administrative Proce-2 dure Act, Title 5, chapter 375, the superintendent 3 may adopt rules establishing procedures for the ad-4 ministration of this section, including, but not lim-5 ited to, procedures governing submission of petitions 6 for intervenor status, prefiling of testimony and ex-7 hibits, information requests, subpoenas, prehearing 8 conferences and conduct of hearings.

9 12. Costs. For the purpose of determining whether the filing meets the requirements of this 10 11 section, the superintendent may employ staff person-12 nel and outside consultants. The reasonable costs related to the review of workers' compensation rate 13 filings, including conduct of the hearing, shall be 14 borne by the rating organizations or insurers making 15 16 the filing.

17 Sec. 4. 39 MRSA §23, sub-§1-A is enacted to 18 read:

19 1-A. Fund. By insuring and keeping insured the 20 payment of the compensation and other benefits under 21 an insurance policy with the Workers' Compensation 22 Insurance Fund;

23 Sec. 5. 39 MRSA c. 7 is enacted to read:

24 25

#### CHAPTER 7

### WORKERS' COMPENSATION INSURANCE FUND

26 <u>§251.</u> Fund

27	There is created and established a fund to be
28	known as the "Workers' Compensation Insurance Fund,"
29	in this chapter called the "fund," to be administered
30	by the Workers' Compensation Insurance Fund Board, in
31	this chapter called the "board," for the purpose of
32	insuring employers against liability for injuries
33	compensable under this Act and for the purpose of in-
34	suring to employees and other persons the compensa-
35	tion and benefits provided by this Act for employees
36	and their dependents. The fund shall be governed by
37	the Maine Insurance Code, Title 24-A, except where
38	the provisions are in conflict with the express pro-
39	visions of this chapter, and the reasonable implica-

Page 10-L.D. 1023

1 tions of this chapter, in which case the provisions 2 of this chapter shall govern.

3 §252. Contents

4 <u>The Workers' Compensation Insurance Fund shall</u> 5 <u>consist of:</u>

6 <u>1. Premiums. All premiums received and paid in-</u> 7 to the fund for insurance issued by it;

8 <u>2. Property. All property and securities ac-</u> 9 <u>quired by and through the use of money belonging to</u> 10 the fund and acquired by gift or otherise; and

- 11 3. Interest. All interest earned upon money be-12 longing to the fund and deposited or invested as pro-13 vided in this chapter.
- 14 §253. Rates

15 The fund shall be subject to the provisions of 16 Title 24-A, chapter 25, except that the fund may not 17 become a member of, or subscriber to, a rating orga-18 nization.

19 §254. Liability

20 The fund may insure employers against their lia-21 bility for compensation under this Act and against 22 liability for compensation under the United States 23 Longshoremen's and Harbor Workers' Compensation Act 24 or any extension of that Act.

25 §255. Self-supporting

The fund shall, after a reasonable time during which to establish itself, become neither more nor 26 27 less than self-supporting. For that purpose, loss 28 29 experience and expense may be ascertained and dividends or credits may be made as provided in this chapter. The fund is exempt from any financial or 30 31 32 budgetary control or supervision by any state agency, 33 except for the examination made by the Superintendent 34 of Insurance.

35 The State, its instrumentalities and political

Page 11-L.D. 1023

subdivisions, shall, if they elect to be policyholders, be subject to the same obligations as other policyholders.

4 §256. Application of assets

5 The assets of the fund are applicable to the pay-6 ment of losses sustained on account of insurance and 7 to the payment of the salaries and all other adminis-8 trative expenses charged against it.

9 §257. Real estate

10 The fund may acquire, own, sell and repurchase 11 real property for its offices when so determined by 12 the board.

13 §258. Custodian

14The Treasurer of State shall be the custodian of15all money and securities belonging to the fund, ex-16cept as provided in this chapter. He is liable on17his official bond for their safekeeping.

18 §259. Delivery or deposit of money belonging to the fund

All money which belongs to the fund and is collected or received under this chapter shall be delivered to the Treasurer of State or deposited to his credit in such bank or banks throughout the State as he designates, but this money is not state money.

25 §260. Securities

All securities belonging to the fund shall be delivered to the Treasurer of State and held by him until otherwise disposed of as provided by this chapter.

30 §261. Expenditures

31 Upon delivery or deposit, the money and securi-32 ties shall be credited by the Treasurer of State to 33 the fund. No money received or collected on account 34 of the fund may be expended or paid out without first 35 passing into the State Treasury and being drawn as

Page 12-L.D. 1023

1 provided in this chapter.

### 2 §262. Ledger account

The Treasurer of State shall keep a special ledger account showing all of the assets pertaining to the fund. In the Treasurer of State's general ledger, this account may appear as a cash account, like other accounts of funds in the State Treasury, and only the actual cash coming into the fund shall be entered into the account.

10 §263. Revolving fund

11 The board may withdraw from the fund in the State 12 Treasury, without at the time presenting vouchers and 13 itemized statements, a sum not to exceed in the ag-14 gregate \$100,000 to be used as a revolving fund. The 15 revolving fund shall be deposited in such banks and 16 under such conditions as the board decides.

17 §264. Expenditures

18 Expenditures made from the revolving fund in pay-19 ments made in connection with the insurance business 20 transacted by the fund are exempt from the restric-21 tions imposed upon the expenditures of state money. Reimbursement of the revolving fund shall be made 22 23 upon presentation to the Treasurer of State of an ab-24 stract or statement of these expenditures. This ab-25 stract shall be in the form required by the Treasurer of State. 26

27 §265. Investments

28 The board shall cause all money in the fund which 29 is in excess of current requirements to be invested 30 and reinvested, from time to time, in securities au-31 thorized by law for the investment of funds of sav-32 ings banks.

33 §266. Deposits

All money in the fund, in excess of current re quirements and not otherwise invested, may be depos ited by the Treasurer of State, from time to time, in
 banks authorized by law to receive deposits of public

- 1 money, under the same rules that govern the deposit 2 of public funds. The interest accruing thereon shall 3 be credited to the fund.
- 4 §267. Valuation

5 Annually, the board shall cause a valuation to be 6 made of the properties and securities acquired and 7 held for the fund and shall report the results of the 8 valuation to the Governor and Superintendent of In-9 surance.

10 <u>§268. Acts</u>

11 All business and affairs of the fund, including 12 any litigation, shall be conducted in the name of the 13 fund, and in that name, without any other name or ti-14 tle, the board or the executive director of the fund 15 may perform the acts authorized by this chapter.

16 §269. Reimbursements

17 The fund shall annually reimburse the Treasurer 18 of State for services performed as custodian of the 19 money of the fund. Reimbursement received by the 20 Treasurer of State under this section shall be dedi-21 cated to carrying out the Treasurer of State's duties 22 under section 258.

23 §270. Workers' Compensation Insurance Fund Board

The Workers' Compensation Insurance Fund Board 24 25 shall be composed of 5 members who shall be different 26 policyholders or representatives of the board. Ini-27 tial appointments shall be made by the Governor as 28 follows: One shall be appointed for a term of one 29 year; one for a term of 2 years; one for a term of 3 years; one for a term of 4 years; and one for a term 30 31 of 5 years. Thereafter, members shall be appointed 32 by the Governor for terms of 5 years each. They shall serve until their successors are appointed and 33 34 have qualified. Vacancies shall be filled for the 35 unexpired term. With the exception of appointments 36 in the first instance, members shall have been poli-37 cyholders in the fund for one year prior to appointment and shall continue in that status during the pe-38 39 riod of membership.

## 1 <u>§271. Chairman</u>

2 3 4	The board shall elect annually in January from its members a chairman and vice-chairman, who shall act as chairman in the absence of the chairman.
5	§272. Powers and duties of the board
6 7 9 10 11 12 13	1. General. The board is vested with full pow- er, authority and jurisdiction over the fund. The board may perform all acts necessary or convenient in the exercise of any power, authority or jurisdiction over the fund, either in the administration or in connection with the insurance policies to be carried on by it under this chapter, subject to such regula- tions as provided.
14 15	2. Rules. The board may adopt rules relating to the conduct of the business of the fund.
16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27	3. Suits. The board may sue and be sued in all actions arising out of any act or omission in connection with its business or affairs. Service of processing suits affecting the fund shall be made upon the executive director of the fund and he shall be responsible for initiating all litigation necessary in the affairs of the fund. The board shall provide for its own legal services by contract or otherwise, in respect to this litigation. The board may obtain insurance to cover any liability for these acts or omissions. 4. Contracts. The board may enter into any con-
28 29	tracts or obligations relating to the fund which are authorized or permitted by law.
30 31 32	5. Investments. The board may invest and rein- vest the money belonging to the fund as provided by this chapter.
33 34 35	6. Reinsurance. The board may reinsure any risk or any part of a risk and shall reinsure against spe- cific and excess losses.
36 37 38	7. Dividends. The board may declare a dividend when there is an excess of assets over liabilities, necessary reserves and a reasonable surplus for a ca-

# 1 tastrophe hazard.

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2	8. Delegation. The board may delegate to the
3	executive director of the fund, under such rules and
4	subject to such conditions as it may from time to
5	time prescribe, any power, function or duty conferred
6	by law on the board in connection with the fund or in
7	connection with the administration, management and
8	conduct of business and affairs of the fund. The ex-
9	ecutive director may exercise such powers and func-
10	tions and perform such duties with the same force and
11	effect as the board, but subject to its approval.
12	9. Other business. The board may conduct all
13	business and affairs and perform all acts relating to
14	the fund whether or not specifically designated in
15	this chapter.
16	§273. Meetings; quorum
17	The board shall meet at least once in each month
18	and at such other times as it may determine or the
19	business of the fund may require. Three or more mem-
20	bers present and voting at a meeting in the conduct
21	of the affairs of the board shall constitute a quo-
22	rum. The action of 3 or more members present is the
23	action of the board.
24	§274. Compensation
25	The members of the board shall be compensated in
26	accordance with Title 5, chapter 379.
27	§275. Audit
28	The board shall have an annual audit of the books
29	and records of the fund made by a duly qualified cer-
30	tified public accountant and shall cause an abstract
31	summary of this audit to be published.
32	§276. Reports of the Superintendent of Insurance
33	The statistical and actuarial data compiled by
34	the fund shall at all times be available to the Su-
35	perintendent of Insurance for his use in judging the
36	adequacy or inadequacy of rates and schedules filed.
37	The executive director of the fund shall make to the

1 Superintendent of Insurance reports required by law 2 to be made to him, including an annual report compa-3 rable to that required of casualty insurers.

4 §277. Executive director

5 The board shall appoint an Executive Director of the Worker's Compensation Insurance Fund who shall be 6 in charge of the day-to-day operation of the fund. 7 The executive director shall have proven successful 8 9 experience as an executive at the general management level and must have been employed in the workers' 10 compensation division of a casualty insurer for at 11 least 5 years. The executive director shall serve at 12 the pleasure of the board. 13

14 §278. Bond

15 The executive director, before entering in the 16 duties of his office, shall qualify by giving an of-17 ficial bond approved by the board, in such sum as the 18 board may order, and by taking and subscribing to an 19 official oath. The approval of the board shall be by 20 written endorsement on the bond. The bond shall be 21 filed in the office of the Secretary of State.

22 §279. Powers and duties of the executive director

In conducting the business and affairs of the fund, the executive director shall perform all duties required by the board. In addition, subject to rules adopted by the board, the executive director may:

27 1. Act for fund. Act for the fund in the col28 lection and disbursements of all money necessary for
29 administration of the fund and the conduct of the
30 business of the fund;

31 <u>2. Annuities. Sell annuities covering compensa-</u> 32 <u>tion benefits;</u>

33 <u>3. Contract. Enter into contracts of workers'</u>
 34 compensation insurance and other liability insurance
 35 authorized under this Act, provided that no such po 36 licies of insurance may be issued until the fund has
 37 been certified by the chairman of the Workers' Com 38 pensation Commission, the Superintendent of Insurance

Page 17-L.D. 1023

1 and the Commissioner of Labor as being, in their 2 view, of sufficient assets to conduct the affairs of 3 the fund;

4 <u>4. Decline to insure. Decline to insure any</u> 5 risk in which the minimum requirement of safety fixed 6 by law or regulation of the State with regard to a 7 safe place of employment is not complied with, or 8 which is beyond the safe carrying of the fund. Oth-9 erwise, the executive director may not refuse to in-10 sure any workers' compensation risk under state law, 11 tendered with premium therefor;

12 <u>5.</u> Inspect. Cause to be inspected and audited 13 <u>the payrolls of employers applying to the fund for</u> 14 insurance;

15 6. Insure. Insure against any loss deemed ad-16 visable;

17 7. Reinsure. Reinsure any risk or any part of a 18 risk; and

19 8. Treatment. Contract with physicians, sur-20 geons, hospitals and rehabilitation facilities for 21 medical, surgical and rehabilitation treatment and 22 the care and nursing of injured persons entitled to 23 benefits under this Act.

24 §280. Employees

25 Subject to the approval of the board, the execu-26 tive director shall appoint all employees, who shall 27 be subject to the Personnel Law.

28 §281. Reports

29 Each quarter, the executive director of the fund 30 shall make a report to the Governor of the business done by the fund during the previous guarter and a 31 32 statement of the fund's resources and liabilities at 33 the close of that previous quarter. Copies of this 34 report shall be forwarded at the same time to the Superintendent of Insurance, the President of the Sen-35 ate and the Speaker of the House of Representatives. 36

37 §282. Declartion of public purpose

Page 18-L.D. 1023

It is declared that the Workers' Compensation In-1 surance Fund Board is established as a body corporate 2 3 and politic and a public instrumentality of the 4 State. It is further declared that the establishment of the fund is a public purpose and use for which 5 6 public money may be spent and private property ac-7 quired and that its establishment is a function of state concern, provided that the debts and liabili-8 9 ties of the fund shall not constitute debts and lia-10 bilities of the State.

11 §283. General Fund money

12 All money appropriated to the fund from the Gen-13 eral Fund shall be repaid within 5 years of the ap-14 propriation, with interest at a rate equal to the 15 then prevailing rate being earned on ordinary General 16 Fund investments, except that no money may be repaid 17 before December 1, 1985.

18 Sec. 5. Effective date. This Act shall take effect January 1, 1987.

### STATEMENT OF FACT

This bill establishes a competitive state Workers' Compensation Insurance Fund, that is, a state fund which competes with private insurance. Currently, 12 other states have similar funds, while 6 states, Puerto Rico, the Virgin Islands and federal employees are covered by exclusive funds.

27 Typically, state funds pay out a significantly 28 higher percentage of premiums toward losses than do 29 insurance companies. This may result in lower rates 30 both for policyholders of the fund and those of com-31 peting insurers.

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Page 19-L.D. 1023

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