

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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119th MAINE LEGISLATURE

FIRST REGULAR SESSION-1999

Legislative Document

No. 838

H.P. 598

House of Representatives, January 28, 1999

An Act to Provide a Paralegal Assistant to Each Workers' Compensation Advocate.

Reference to the Committee on Labor suggested and ordered printed.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Joseph W. Mayo".

JOSEPH W. MAYO, Clerk

Presented by Representative TESSIER of Fairfield.
Cosponsored by Senator KONTOS of Cumberland and
Representatives: BERRY of Livermore, BOLDUC of Auburn, CAMERON of Rumford,
DUPLESSIE of Westbrook, HATCH of Skowhegan, LaVERDIERE of Wilton, SAMSON of
Jay, STANLEY of Medway.

Be it enacted by the People of the State of Maine as follows:

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Sec. 1. 39-A MRS A §154, sub-§6, as amended by PL 1997, c. 486, §5, is further amended to read:

6. **Assessment levied.** The assessments levied under this section may not be designed to produce more than \$6,000,000 in revenues annually beginning in the 1995-96 fiscal year ~~or, more than \$6,600,000 annually beginning in the 1997-98 fiscal year or more than \$7,000,000 beginning in the 1999-00 fiscal year.~~ Assessments collected that exceed \$6,000,000 beginning in the 1995-96 fiscal year ~~or, \$6,600,000 beginning in the 1997-98 fiscal year or \$7,000,000 beginning in the 1999-00 fiscal year~~ by a margin of more than 10% must be refunded to those who paid the assessment. Any amount collected above the board's allocated budget and within the 10% margin must be used to create a reserve of up to 1/4 of the board's annual budget. Any collected amounts or savings above the allowed reserve must be used to reduce the assessment for the following fiscal year. The board shall determine the assessments prior to May 1st and shall assess each insurance company or association and self-insured employer its pro rata share for expenditures during the fiscal year beginning July 1st. Each self-insured employer shall pay the assessment on or before June 1st. Each insurance company or association shall pay the assessment in accordance with subsection 3.

Sec. 2. **Allocation.** The following funds are allocated from Other Special Revenue to carry out the purposes of this Act.

	1999-00	2000-01
WORKERS' COMPENSATION BOARD		
Administration - Workers' Compensation Board		
Positions - Legislative Count	(9,000)	(9,000)
Personal Services	\$219,245	\$289,435
All Other	45,000	22,500
Provides funds for the salary, fringe benefits, general operating and initial start-up costs to establish 9 Paralegal Assistant positions.		
WORKERS' COMPENSATION BOARD		
TOTAL	\$264,245	\$311,935

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SUMMARY

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This bill establishes 9 new Paralegal Assistant positions for the Workers' Compensation Board so that a Paralegal Assistant can be assigned to each Workers' Compensation Advocate employed by the board. It also increases the assessment limit of the board in order to allow sufficient funding levels for the new positions.