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STATE OF MAINE
WORKERS' COMPENSATION BOARD
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June 30, 2025

Senator Michael Tipping, Chair
Representative Amy Roeder, Chair
Joint Standing Committee on Labor
100 State House Station
Augusta, ME 04333-0100

Re: Resolves 2023, c. 139, June, 2025 Update

As required by Resolves 2023, c. 139 (the “Resolve”), the Workers’ Compensation Board (“Board”) is submitting this monthly report to the legislature. The final paragraph of Section 1 of the Resolve directs the Board to consider “how [lost wage benefits compare] to the current cost of living as determined by the United States Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics CPI-U for the New England Division; the cost of updating the annual adjustment provision in Title 39-A, section 212; and the cost of implementing a cost-of-living adjustment provision in sections 213 and 215.”

As an initial step, the Board has asked the National Council on Compensation Insurance (“NCCI”) to provide cost estimates for several different scenarios. Specifically, NCCI has been asked to estimate the cost impact of:

- Extending the existing COLA in 39-A M.R.S.A. § 212(4)¹ to injured workers who receive 100% partial benefits under 39-A M.R.S.A. § 213;
- Applying the cost-of-living-adjustment (“COLA”) to death benefits paid pursuant to 39-A M.R.S.A. § 215;
- Using the U. S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics’ CPI-U for the New England Division² to calculate COLA adjustments instead of changes in Maine’s State Average Weekly Wage;

¹ A discussion of who is and is not eligible for a COLA can be found in the Board’s August 31, 2024 update.

² The New England division includes Connecticut, Maine, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, Rhode Island and Vermont.

- If appropriate, using the United States Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics' CPI-U for the Northeast Region³ instead of changes in Maine's State Average Weekly Wage;
- Applying the COLA after 156 weeks (instead of 260 weeks).

NCCI will be estimating the potential prospective impact of the scenarios listed above. The Board anticipates that the cost estimates will be available in July.

Submitted by:

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³ The Northeast Region includes Connecticut, Maine, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New York, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, and Vermont.