



# OHIO LEGISLATIVE SERVICE COMMISSION

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## Final Analysis

Paul Luzzi

### **Sub. H.B. 27**

132nd General Assembly

(As Passed by the General Assembly)

*(For details of the act's fiscal provisions, see the LSC Budget in Detail, As Enacted; the LSC Comparison Document, As Enacted; and the LSC Greenbook, all of which are available on LSC's website, [www.lsc.ohio.gov](http://www.lsc.ohio.gov), under "Budget Central")*

**Reps.** Brinkman, Brenner, Antani, Blessing, Butler, Conditt, Hambley, Henne, Huffman, Pelanda, Perales, Reineke, Retherford, Riedel, Roegner, Schaffer, Seitz, R. Smith, Stein

**Sens.** Hottinger, Hackett, Beagle, Terhar, Eklund, Hite, Hoagland, Huffman, Oelslager, Peterson, Wilson

**Effective date:** Appropriations effective June 30, 2017; most other provisions effective September 29, 2017

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## **ACT SUMMARY**

### **BUREAU OF WORKERS' COMPENSATION**

#### **Statute of limitations for injury or death claims**

- Decreases the amount of time a person has to initiate a workers' compensation claim based on an employee's injury or death to one year after an employee sustains an injury or dies from two years under former law.

#### **Drug testing**

- Revises the types and amounts of controlled substances to which the continuing law rebuttable presumption that an employee was under the influence at the time of injury applies.

#### **Presumption of cancer incurred while performing official duties**

- Adds working wage loss to the types of compensation a firefighter may receive under the presumption in the Workers' Compensation Law that a firefighter who is disabled due to cancer incurred the cancer while performing official duties as a firefighter.

- Expands the circumstances under which the presumption can be rebutted to include if there is evidence that shows, by a preponderance of competent scientific evidence, that exposure to the type of carcinogen alleged did not or could not have caused the cancer being alleged.
- Provides that the presumption does not apply if it has been more than 15 years (rather than more than 20 years as under former law) since the firefighter was last assigned to hazardous duty as a firefighter.

### **Payments to dependents**

- Prohibits, for claims arising on or after September 29, 2017 (the provision's effective date), compensation or benefits from being paid to a deceased employee's dependent while the dependent is incarcerated as a result of a conviction of any state or federal criminal law.

### **Temporary total disability**

- Authorizes the Administrator of Workers' Compensation, for good cause, to waive the requirement that an employee receiving temporary total disability (TTD) compensation undergo a medical examination.
- Requires the Administrator to refer an employee receiving TTD compensation for a medical examination if the employee's employer objects to the waiver.
- Requires, if an employee's full weekly wage has not been determined at the time TTD compensation becomes payable, that an employee receive 33⅓% of the statewide average weekly wage as calculated under continuing law.
- Requires TTD compensation to be adjusted, and overpayments to be recovered, on determination of an employee's full weekly wage.
- Requires, if the employee receives less than the amount the employee is entitled to under continuing law for TTD, on determination of the employee's full weekly wage, the employee to receive the difference.

### **Permanent partial disability**

- Requires, with respect to applications filed on or September 29, 2017, if an employee fails to schedule a medical examination with the Bureau of Workers' Compensation (BWC) Medical Section or fails to attend a scheduled medical examination, the dismissal of an application for a determination of the employee's permanent partial disability (PPD).



- Allows, with respect to applications suspended pursuant to continuing law on September 29, 2017, the Administrator to dismiss an application for a determination of the employee's PPD unless the employee schedules a medical examination within a specified time period and attends the examination.
- Allows an employee to refile a dismissed application, subject to the Industrial Commission's continuing jurisdiction.

### **Appeal of Industrial Commission order**

- Extends the time to appeal an Industrial Commission order from 60 days to 150 days if a party provides notice of intent to settle a claim and the opposing party does not object.
- Increases to \$5,000 (from \$4,200 under former law) the amount of attorney's fees a workers' compensation claimant can recover in an appeal to a court of common pleas.

### **Handicap Reimbursement Program**

- Requires the Administrator to adopt a rule allowing an employer who settles a claim to participate in the Handicap Reimbursement Program, which was prohibited under former law.

### **Secondary payers**

- Allows the Administrator, based on an assessment of an employee's claim file, to reimburse, up to \$500, the Centers of Medicare and Medicaid Services, the Ohio Department of Medicaid, or a medical assistance provider to whom the Department has assigned a right of recovery.
- Requires the Administrator, before making a payment, to make a reasonable determination that the payment is for reimbursement of benefits for an injury or occupational disease that is compensable, or is likely to be compensable, under the Workers' Compensation Law.
- Requires these payments to be made from the Surplus Fund Account.
- Allows the Administrator, with the advice and consent of the BWC Board of Directors, to adopt rules to implement the provision.

### **Public Employment Risk Reduction Program**

- Eliminates a public employer's ability to apply to the Administrator for an exemption from the Public Employment Risk Reduction Program (PERRP).



- Provides coverage under PERRP to firefighters, emergency medical technicians, and certain correction officers.
- Requires the Administrator to adopt rules concerning standards and procedures for an effective safety partnership agreement program for public employers and employees that promotes voluntary compliance with PERRP.
- Specifies that the Administrator or Administrator's designee must make scheduled inspections (rather than inspections) and requires inspections and investigations to be conducted in accordance with the Administrator's rules adopted under continuing law.
- Eliminates a requirement that a safety violation notice provided to a public employer include the initial notice the Administrator receives of the violation.

### **Group rating plans**

- Requires the Administrator, if the premium rate of an employer who is a member of a group rating plan changes from the previous year, to provide an explanation of a premium rate revision to the group administrator instead of a copy of the invoice as under former law.

### **Professional employer organizations**

- Extends to 30 days (from 14 days under former law) the time in which a professional employer organization (PEO) must submit a lease termination notice form to the Administrator and to each client employer.
- Extends to 30 days (from 14 days under former law) the time in which a self-insuring PEO must submit to the Administrator information needed to develop an experience modification factor for an employer subject to a PEO lease termination.
- Adds the president or other individual who serves as the controlling person of a PEO to the list of people who can make certain attestations related to the PEO.
- Removes the requirement that a controlling entity of a PEO reporting entity include supplemental combining schedules to guarantee that the registration and renewal requirements related to working capital are satisfied if a PEO reporting entity submits a combined or consolidated financial statement under certain circumstances.

## Occupational disease reports

- Eliminates the prohibition against a physician neglecting or refusing to make or transmit an occupational disease report to BWC and the penalty for violating the prohibition.
- Removes references related to submitting occupational disease reports by mail only.

## Actuarial reporting

- Makes changes to actuarial reporting requirements under the Workers' Compensation Law.

## Provider participation standards

- Requires the Administrator to develop and periodically revise standards for maintaining adequate numbers of certified health care providers for services used by claimants.

## OTHER AGENCIES

### Employee medical examinations

- Prohibits a public employer from requiring an employee, prospective employee, or applicant for employment to pay the cost of a medical examination required by the public employer as a condition of employment or continued employment.

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## CONTENT AND OPERATION

### BUREAU OF WORKERS' COMPENSATION

#### Statute of limitations for injury or death claims

(R.C. 4123.84; Section 741.20)

Under the act, a workers' compensation claim arising on or after September 29, 2017 (the provision's effective date) is barred unless one of the following occur within one year, decreased from two years as under former law, after the employee sustains the injury or dies:

- Written or facsimile notice of the specific part the body claimed to have been injured or notice of death has been made to the Industrial Commission or the Bureau of Workers' Compensation (BWC);
- The employer, with knowledge of a claimed compensable injury or occupational disease, has paid wages in lieu of compensation for total disability;
- If the employer is a self-insuring employer, one of the following has occurred:
  - Written or facsimile notice of the specific part the body claimed to have been injured has been given to the Commission or BWC or the employer has furnished treatment by a licensed physician in the employ of an employer;



- Compensation or benefits have been paid or furnished equal to or greater than is provided for in the Workers' Compensation Law.

## **Drug testing**

(R.C. 4123.54)

The act revises the types and amounts of controlled substances to which the rebuttable presumption, under continuing law, that an employee was under the influence at the time of injury applies. Under the continuing law, an employee or employee's dependent is ineligible for compensation and benefits for an injury, occupational disease, or death if it was proximately caused by the employee's being intoxicated or under the influence of marijuana or of a controlled substance not prescribed by a physician. The presumption that being intoxicated or under the influence was the proximate cause of the injury, occupational disease, or death may be established through a qualifying chemical test or if the employee refuses to submit to a qualifying chemical test after being notified in accordance with continuing law requirements that refusal may affect eligibility.

The act generally revises the list of controlled substances and the necessary levels of some of the controlled substances specified in the rebuttable presumption to be those used by the federal Department of Transportation drug testing program.<sup>1</sup> However, the act retains testing requirements regarding barbiturates, benzodiazepines, and methadone, which are not included in the federal regulation. The act removes a testing requirement regarding propoxyphene, and the federal regulation does not include testing levels for that substance; thus it appears that positive tests for propoxyphene will not trigger the rebuttable presumption under the act.

The act also removes references to the types of screening test used under former law, "enzyme multiplied immunoassay technique" and "gas chromatography mass spectrometry," and that the test is done on a urine sample. The federal regulation does not specify the type of test or sample type required to be used for purposes of the cutoff concentration levels; thus it is not clear as to which types of tests are required.

The federal regulation includes two cutoff levels, the initial test cutoff concentration level and the confirmatory test cutoff level. The act does not specify which level is to be used. Thus it is unclear which level is required to be used under the act or if the act requires a two-part test of a sample. However, the act appears to lower the necessary level of amphetamines and cocaine for purposes of triggering the rebuttable presumption.

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<sup>1</sup> 49 Code of Federal Regulations (C.F.R.) 40.87.



## **Presumption of cancer incurred while performing official duties**

(R.C. 742.38 and 4123.68; Sections 707.10, 741.20, and 741.40)

The act makes several changes to continuing law's presumption, for purposes of the Workers' Compensation Law and the Ohio Police and Fire Pension Fund (OP&F), that a firefighter who is disabled as a result of cancer incurred the cancer while performing official duties, if the member was exposed to an agent classified by the International Agency for Research on Cancer (IARC) or its successor as a Group 1 or 2A carcinogen.

The act adds to the types of compensation payable under the presumption in the Workers' Compensation Law, adds to the circumstances in which the presumption can be rebutted, and revises when the presumption does not apply.

### **Working wage loss**

The act adds working wage loss (which is paid in lieu of temporary total disability (TTD)) to the compensation or benefits payable under the presumption described above in the Workers' Compensation Law. Under continuing law, the presumption is included in the list of occupational diseases that are compensable under the Law, and compensation and benefits are payable under the presumption in the event of TTD, permanent total disability (PTD), or death. The working wage loss provision applies to workers' compensation claims pending on September 29, 2017 (the provision's effective date) and to any claim filed on or after that date.

### **Rebuttal of the presumption**

The act adds to the circumstances under continuing law in which the presumption can be rebutted. Under the act, the presumption is rebutted if there is evidence that shows, by a preponderance of competent scientific evidence, that exposure to the type of carcinogen alleged did not or could not have caused the cancer being alleged.

### **Application**

Under the act, the presumption does not apply if it has been more than 15 years since the firefighter was last assigned to hazardous duty as a firefighter. Formerly, it did not apply if it had been more than 20 years since the firefighter was last assigned to hazardous duty.

The act's provisions concerning hazardous duty and competent scientific evidence apply only to applications for disability benefits filed on or after September 29, 2017, and to workers' compensation claims arising on or after that date.



## **Incarcerated dependents**

(R.C. 4123.54; Section 741.20)

For claims arising on or after September 29, 2017, the act prohibits compensation or benefits from being paid to a deceased employee's dependent while the dependent is incarcerated as a result of a conviction of any state or federal criminal law. Continuing law prohibits compensation or benefits from being paid to a claimant while the claimant is incarcerated under those circumstances.

## **Temporary total disability**

### **Waiver of required medical examinations**

(R.C. 4123.53)

Under continuing law, the Administrator must refer an employee who has received 90 consecutive days of TTD compensation to the BWC Medical Section for a medical examination. If a medical examiner determines that the employee remains temporarily and totally disabled, the medical examiner must recommend a date when the employee should be reexamined. The Administrator must schedule, and the employee must attend, medical examinations until an examiner determines that the employee is no longer temporarily totally disabled, or the employee is no longer receiving TTD compensation. An employee's employer may waive the scheduling of a medical examination.

The act authorizes the Administrator, for good cause, to waive the scheduling of a medical examination during the period an employee is receiving TTD compensation. If the employee's employer objects to the Administrator's waiver, the Administrator must refer the employee to the BWC Medical Section to schedule the examination, or the Administrator must schedule the examination.

### **Minimum TTD compensation**

(R.C. 4123.56)

Under continuing law, an employee who is entitled to TTD compensation generally receives 66 $\frac{2}{3}$ % of the employee's average weekly wage (AWW) for a maximum of 200 weeks or until specified events occur, whichever is earlier. However, during the first 12 weeks of TTD, the employee receives 72% of the employee's full weekly wage, up to a statutory maximum. Weekly TTD compensation cannot be more than the statewide AWW or less than 33 $\frac{1}{3}$ % of the statewide AWW unless an employee's wage is less than the minimum, in which case the employee receives the employee's full wages.



Under the act, if an employee is eligible for TTD compensation, but the employee's full weekly wage has not been determined at the time payments are to start, the employee is entitled to 33⅓% of the statewide AWW. On determination of an employee's full weekly wage, the employee's TTD compensation is adjusted using continuing law.

If the amount of compensation an employee receives under the act is more than the adjusted amount, the overpayment is recovered through deductions from compensation to which the employee becomes entitled in the same claim or in a different claim pursuant to continuing law. If the amount an employee receives is less than the adjusted amount, the employee is entitled to the difference between the two amounts.

### **Dismissal of permanent partial disability application**

(R.C. 4123.57; Sections 741.10 and 741.30)

Under continuing law, an eligible employee may apply to BWC for a determination of the percentage of the employee's permanent partial disability (PPD). When an employee applies for a determination, BWC must schedule the employee for a medical examination by the BWC Medical Section. The act allows the Administrator to dismiss a PPD application under certain circumstances.

#### **Applications filed on or after the effective date**

Under the act, for an application filed on or after September 29, 2017, if an employee fails to respond to an attempt to schedule a medical examination by the BWC Medical Section, or fails to attend a scheduled medical examination without notice or explanation, the employee's PPD application must be dismissed without prejudice. An employee may refile the claim, subject to the Industrial Commission's continuing jurisdiction, which allows a change in the claim to be made until five years from the date of injury or five years from the date of the last payment of benefits or compensation made under continuing law.

The Administrator must adopt rules addressing the manner in which an employee will be notified of possible dismissal and how an employee may refile an application.

#### **Applications pending on the effective date**

If, on September 29, 2017, an employee's PPD application has been suspended pursuant to continuing law because the employee refused to submit to or obstructed a medical examination or vocational evaluation, the Administrator must send a notice to the employee's last known address informing the employee that the application may be



dismissed unless the employee schedules a medical examination with the BWC Medical Section within 30 days after receiving the notice. If the employee does not schedule a medical examination with the Medical Section within 30 days after receiving the notice or fails to attend a scheduled examination, the Administrator may dismiss the application. The employee may refile the application, subject to the Industrial Commission's continuing jurisdiction.

## **Appeal of Industrial Commission order**

(R.C. 4123.512; Section 741.20)

For claims arising on and after September 29, 2017, the act extends the time to appeal an Industrial Commission order from 60 days to 150 days if a party gives notice of intent to settle and the opposing party does not object. Under continuing law, a claimant or an employer may appeal an Industrial Commission order relating to a claimant's right to receive compensation or benefits or continue receiving compensation or benefits from the Fund to a court of common pleas. A claimant or employer also may appeal such a decision by a staff hearing officer if the Industrial Commission has issued an order declining to hear the appeal. Law retained in part by the act requires the claimant or employer to file an appeal with the court within 60 days after the date the party receives the Commission's order.

Under the act, a party may file with the Administrator and serve on an opposing party and the opposing party's representative a notice of intent to settle within 30 days after receiving the Commission's order. Filing the notice of intent to settle extends the time to file an appeal from 60 days to 150 days, unless the opposing party files an objection with the Administrator and serves the objection on the party who served the notice and that party's representative within 14 days after being served with the notice.

Under continuing law, if a claimant establishes a right to receive compensation or benefits under the Workers' Compensation Law (the right to "participate in the State Insurance Fund") on appeal to a court, the claimant can recover the cost of the appeal, including attorney's fees. A court taxes the costs against either the employer or the Industrial Commission, depending on who contested the claimant's right to participate in the Fund. The act increases to \$5,000 (from \$4,200 under former law) the cap on attorney's fees that can be taxed against an employer or the Commission.

## **Handicap Reimbursement Program**

(R.C. 4123.343)

Under the Handicap Reimbursement Program, part or all of a claim involving an employee with a qualifying preexisting disease or condition is paid from the Surplus



Fund Account under certain circumstances. Payments from the Surplus Fund Account do not directly affect the workers' compensation premium paid by an individual employer. Under continuing law the Administrator must adopt rules specifying the grounds upon which payments made to handicapped employees will be charged to the Surplus Fund Account.

The act requires the Administrator to adopt rules allowing an employer who settles a claim to participate in the Program. Formerly, the law prohibited reliance on any agreement between the employer and the claimant as to the merits of a claim and the amount of the charge.

### **Reimbursement of secondary payers**

(R.C. 4123.66)

The act allows the Administrator to make a payment of up to \$500 to either of the following:

- The Centers of Medicare and Medicaid Services for reimbursement of conditional payments made pursuant to the Medicare Secondary Payer Act;
- The Ohio Department of Medicaid, or a medical assistance provider to whom the Department has assigned a right of recovery under continuing law, for reimbursement for the cost of medical assistance paid on behalf of a medical assistance recipient.

Before making a payment, the Administrator must reasonably determine that the payment is for reimbursement of benefits for an injury or occupational disease that is compensable, or is likely to be compensable, under the Workers' Compensation Law.

These payments are to be charged to and paid from the Surplus Fund Account maintained under continuing law.

Nothing in this provision can be construed as limiting the Centers of Medicare and Medicaid Services, the Department, or any other entity with a lawful right to reimbursement from recovering amounts greater than \$500. The Administrator, with the advice and consent of the BWC Board of Directors, may adopt rules to implement this provision.



## **Public Employment Risk Reduction Program**

(R.C. 4167.01, 4167.02, and 4167.10; repealed R.C. 4167.19)

The Public Employment Risk Reduction Program (PERRP), which is administered by BWC, provides worker safety and health protection to most of Ohio's state and local government employees. PERRP develops and enforces mandatory job safety and health standards, maintains a reporting and recordkeeping system to monitor job-related injuries and illnesses, and provides assistance, training, and other support to help public employers and employees understand their rights and responsibilities.

### **Exemptions**

The act eliminates the ability of a public employer that is not a state agency to apply to the Administrator for an exemption from PERRP, except for inspections after specified accidents occur. Formerly, a public employer was eligible for an exemption if (1) the employer qualified for a group rating plan or the employer's premium rate was at least 50% less than the base rate for its workers' compensation premiums and (2) if the employer did not qualify for a group rating plan, the employer established and maintained a safety committee. An exemption granted to a public employer was valid for seven years.

### **Coverage**

The act includes in the definition of "public employee" individuals employed as firefighters, emergency medical technicians, and certain local correction officers. The result is that individuals employed in these professions will now be covered under PERRP.

### **Rules for effective safety partnership program**

The act requires the Administrator to adopt rules, with the BWC Board of Directors' advice and consent, concerning standards and procedures for an effective safety partnership agreement program for public employers and employees that promotes voluntary compliance with PERRP.

### **Inspections**

Continuing law authorizes the Administrator or the Administrator's designee to inspect and investigate any facility, construction site, or other area where a public employee is working for a public employer. The act specifies that the Administrator or designee must make scheduled inspections (rather than inspections) and specifies that the Administrator or designee must conduct inspections and investigations in



accordance with rules the Administrator must adopt under continuing law. Further, the act allows the Administrator or designee to enter a public employer's facility, site, or area without delay during normal working hours and at other reasonable times to conduct inspections and investigations.

Under continuing law, the Administrator or the Administrator's designee may conduct inspections and investigations when a public employee files a complaint with the Administrator regarding unsafe working conditions or when a public employee exercises the employee's right to refuse to work due to unsafe conditions.

### **Safety violation notices**

The act eliminates the requirement that a safety violation notice provided to a public employer include the initial notice the Administrator receives of the violation. Continuing law requires the Administrator to inform the public employer of the alleged violation or danger and that the Administrator will investigate and inspect the employer's workplace.

### **Explanation of rate revision in group rating plans**

(R.C. 4123.29)

Under continuing law, the Administrator must offer a plan that groups similar employers together and pools the employers' risk. Under the act, if the premium rate for an employer who participates in a group rating plan changes from the rate established for the previous year, the Administrator, in addition to sending an invoice with the rate revision to the employer under continuing law, must provide an explanation of the rate revision to the third-party that administers the group rating plan for the group. Former law required the Administrator to send a copy of the invoice to the group administrator.

### **Professional employer organizations**

(R.C. 4125.07, 4125.05, and 4125.051)

A professional employer organization (PEO) is a business entity that enters into an agreement with one or more client employers to share the responsibilities and liabilities of being an employer. A PEO must register with the Administrator to operate in Ohio. One duty of the PEO is to maintain workers' compensation coverage for all of the co-employed employees. After the termination of a PEO agreement, continuing law requires a PEO to provide certain information to both the Administrator and a client employer. The act extends to 30 days, from 14 days under former law, the time in which both of the following must occur:



- A PEO must submit a lease termination notice form to the Administrator and to each client employer of the PEO;
- A self-insuring PEO must submit to the Administrator information needed to develop an experience modification factor for employers subject to a PEO lease termination.

The act adds the president or other individual who serves as the controlling person of a PEO to the list of people who can attest to either of the following:

- The accuracy of the required data submissions for registration as a PEO;
- That all wages, taxes, workers' compensation premiums, and employee benefits have been paid by the PEO or members of the PEO reporting entity when a PEO or PEO reporting entity has a deficit in working capital.

Former law allowed only the chief executive officer of a PEO to make these attestations.

The act removes a requirement that a controlling entity of a PEO reporting entity include supplemental combining schedules to guarantee that the continuing law registration and renewal requirements related to working capital are satisfied if a PEO reporting entity submits a combined or consolidated financial statement that includes entities that are not PEOs or that are not in the PEO reporting entity.

### **Occupational disease reports**

(Repealed R.C. 4123.72; R.C. 4123.71)

The act eliminates the prohibition against a physician neglecting or refusing to make or transmit an occupational disease report to BWC and the penalty for violating the prohibition. Additionally, the act removes references to submitting occupational disease reports by mail only.

### **Actuarial reporting**

(R.C. 4121.125)

#### **Annual unpaid liabilities report**

Continuing law requires the BWC Board of Directors to prepare or have prepared various actuarial reports concerning the funds of the workers' compensation system. The act revises the content of the annual report that the Board must contract to have prepared. Under the act, the report must consist of an actuarial estimate of the unpaid liabilities of the State Insurance Fund and other funds created in the Workers'



Compensation Law, rather than a valuation of those funds as under former law. The report must include all of the following information:

- A summary of the funds and components evaluated (rather than the compensation and benefit provisions of the Law);
- A description of the actuarial methods (added by the act) and assumptions used in the analysis of the unpaid liabilities (former law instead required the actuarial assumptions and cost method used);
- A schedule showing the impact of changes in the estimates of the unpaid liabilities (instead of the compensation and benefit provisions, assumptions, and methods) since the previous annual analysis report was submitted to the Board.

### **Five-year report**

The act modifies a report that continuing law requires the Board to have prepared every five years. Under the act, the report must contain an analysis of the mortality experience used in estimating the future costs of survivor benefits and permanent disability benefits. The act requires the report to be used to experience rate employer premiums and to update the claim level reserves in the annual unpaid liabilities report described above. The person or actuary preparing the report must recommend any changes to the actuarial mortality standards (rather than actuarial standards) in the report.

The five-year report is used to update the actuarial assumptions used in the annual valuation report required by continuing law. The report is based on an investigation of employers' experience; the mortality, service, and injury rate of employees; and payments of TTD, PPD, and PTD compensation. The act eliminates the requirement that the five-year report include information regarding specified assumptions and changes made to those assumptions.

### **Legislative reports**

Continuing law requires the Board to have an actuary or a person supervised by an actuary prepare an analysis of any introduced legislation expected to have a measurable financial impact on Ohio's workers' compensation system. The act eliminates the following items from the list of information that the report must contain:

- A description of the participant group or groups included in the report;



- The percent of premium increase that would be required to amortize the increase in actuarial accrued liabilities as a level percent of employer premiums over a period not to exceed 30 years;
- A statement of whether employer premiums paid to BWC after enactment of the legislation are expected to satisfy funding objective established by the Board.

Thus, under the act, an analysis of introduced legislation must contain the following information:

- A summary of the statutory changes being evaluated (continuing law);
- A description of or reference to the actuarial assumptions and actuarial cost method used in the report (continuing law);
- A statement of the financial impact of the legislation, including the resulting increase, if any, in employer premiums, and in current estimates of unpaid liabilities (similar to former law).

### **Comparisons to other workers' compensation systems**

The act eliminates the Board's authority to contract with an outside actuary or other professional person to compare Ohio's workers' compensation system to other state and private workers' compensation systems.

### **Provider participation standards**

(R.C. 4121.44)

The act requires the Administrator, in cooperation with the Health Care Quality Assurance Advisory Committee or its successor committee, to develop and periodically revise standards for maintaining adequate numbers of certified health care providers for services used by claimants. The standards must ensure both of the following:

- That claimants have access to a choice of providers for similar services within the geographic area that the claimants reside;
- That the providers within a geographic area are actively accepting new claimants as required in rules adopted by the Administrator.

## OTHER AGENCIES

### Employee medical examinations

(R.C. 4113.21)

The act prohibits a public employer from requiring an employee, prospective employee, or applicant for employment to pay the cost of a medical examination required by the public employer as a condition of employment or continued employment. Under the act, "public employer" means the United States, the state, any political subdivision of the state, and any agency of the United States, the state, or a political subdivision of the state.

Continuing law and the act prohibit a private employer from requiring a prospective employee or an applicant from paying for medical examinations required by the employer as a condition of employment. An employer who violates the prohibitions must forfeit not more than \$100 for each violation. BWC and the Public Utilities Commission of Ohio enforce the penalty. It is unclear how this prohibition applies with respect to federal employees. Federal regulations specifically require applicants for certain federal positions and certain federal employees to pay for a medical examination conducted by an applicant's or employee's private physician if the purpose of the examination is for change sought by the applicant, such as new employment, or by the employee, such as a request for change in duty status, reasonable accommodations, or job modifications.<sup>2</sup>

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## HISTORY

ACTION	DATE
Introduced	02-01-17
Reported, H. Insurance	05-16-17
Re-referred, H. Finance	05-16-17
Reported, H. Finance	05-17-17
Passed House (66-31)	05-17-17
Reported, S. Insurance & Financial Institutions	06-20-17
Passed Senate (24-9)	06-28-17
House concurred in Senate amendments (60-39)	06-28-17

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<sup>2</sup> 5 C.F.R. 339.304.

