

supervision over the agency; the remaining four Commissioners hear cases. Hearings are held throughout the State in contested cases. It receives reports of accidents, and adjudicates claims for compensation arising under the law. Investigations are made of companies and firms which fail to carry insurance under the terms of the Act. The Commission also has the authority to promulgate safety rules and regulations for insured firms and industries. Through the Safety Department, periodic examinations and inspections are made of the various industrial plants to determine what safety precautions are being taken. The Commission may require any plant or industry under the jurisdiction of the Act to take necessary steps to correct any unsafe condition or practice which may exist. The Safety Department sponsors a safety conference in cooperation with the various industries of the State for the purpose of encouraging safe working practices and safe working conditions (Code 1951, Art. 101, Secs. 1-13, Acts 1953, ch. 766).

In recent years many important changes in the Workmen's Compensation Act have been made by the General Assembly. Among the most important of these have been the increase of temporary total disability payments from \$28.00 to \$32.00 a week; the increase of permanent total disability awards from \$32.00 weekly payments to \$35.00, and the total amount from \$10,000 to \$12,500, the increase of total benefits to dependents from \$7,500 to \$10,000; the broadening of the law in hernia cases, the establishment of a Second Injury Fund, and removal of the limitations as to the payment of medical expenses. In 1951 the Act included many additional employments; also, for the first time, Maryland came to be what is known as a non-scheduled State for Occupational Diseases.

Medical Board for Occupational Diseases

The Medical Board for Occupational Diseases was established in 1939. The members of the Board are appointed by the Governor, with the approval of the Senate, from a list of nominees submitted by the Deans of the schools of medicine of the University of Maryland and the Johns Hopkins University and by the Council of the Medical and Chirurgical Faculty of Maryland. Each agency submits a list of three persons, two of whom are experienced in occupational diseases, and one of whom is an experienced roentgenologist. Each appointee to the Board must be a licensed physician in good professional standing, two of whom shall have had at least five years practice in the treating, diagnosis, and care of industrial diseases, the third member having been trained in roentgenology and having had five years practice and experience. The term of each member is six years. The Chairman of the Board is designated by the Governor. The Board hears and adjudicates all claims for compensation for disability caused by an occupational disease. The decisions of the Board are subject to review by the Industrial Accident Commission. (Code 1951, Art. 101, secs. 26-28).

Appropriations	1953	1954
General Fund	\$219,702	\$243,793
Staff: 57.		