

WORKMEN'S COMPENSATION COMMISSION

Chairperson: Charles J. Krysiak, 1992

Sidney W. Albert, 1981; Carmel Snow, 1981; Francis J. Valle, 1982; Harold Lee Frankel, 1989; Edward A. Palamaro, 1990; G. Joseph Sills, Jr., 1989; Clement R. Mercaldo, 1991.

Virginia R. Barnes, *Secretary and Director of Administration*

William Hemelt, *Director of Claims*

Robert L. Dodson, *Chief, Hearing Division*

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The Workmen's Compensation Commission, created by Chapter 800, Acts of 1914, as the State Industrial Accident Commission, received its present name by Chapter 584, Acts of 1957. Under the provisions of Chapter 238, Acts of 1961, the Commission was increased from five to seven members, all of whom are appointed by the Governor with the advice and consent of the Senate for terms of twelve years.

Like its predecessor, the Commission administers the Workmen's Compensation Law. It hears contested cases and holds hearings throughout the State; it receives reports of accidents and adjudicates claims for compensation arising under the law; and it investigates companies and firms that fail to carry insurance under the terms of the Act. The Chairperson sits on the trial of cases when his administrative and executive functions permit (Code 1957, Art. 101, secs. 1, 2, 5, 16, 38-40).

In recent years the General Assembly has made many important changes in the Workmen's Compensation Act. Among the most significant have been acts increasing maximum temporary disability payment to one hundred percent of State average weekly wage; increasing maximum permanent total disability payments to one hundred percent of State average weekly wage; and increasing the maximum total payable for total disability to \$45,000, provided, however, that if the employee's total disability shall continue after a total of \$45,000 has been paid, then further weekly payments at the rate previously paid shall be paid to him during such disability. In 1965 the Serious Disability Section was added to the Act. This provides for a greater amount and rate of compensation for a workman who sustains a serious

disability, as defined by the Law (Code 1957, Art. 101, secs. 21-36, 66).

MEDICAL BOARD FOR OCCUPATIONAL DISEASES

Chairperson: James Frenkil, M.D., 1983

John F. Schaefer, M.D., 1981; J. Howard Frantz, M.D., 1985

The Medical Board for Occupational Diseases was established by Chapter 465, Acts of 1939. The Governor appoints the members of the Board for six-year terms with the approval of the Senate from lists of nominees submitted by the deans of the schools of medicine of the University of Maryland, The Johns Hopkins University, and the Medical and Chirurgical Faculty of Maryland. Each of these agencies submits a list of three persons, two of whom are experienced in occupational diseases and one of whom is an experienced physician in good professional standing. Two must have had at least five years practice in the treating, diagnosis, and care of industrial diseases, and a third must have been trained in roentgenology and must have had five years practice and experience. The Governor designates the Chairperson of the Board. 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 Workmen's Compensation Commission (Code 1957, Art. 101, secs. 22-29).

GOVERNOR'S COMMISSION TO REVIEW LAWS GOVERNING THE WORKMEN'S COMPENSATION LAWS

Chairperson: Clement R. Mercaldo

Sidney Blum, Thomas E. Cinnamon, Ada Evans, John S. Hebb III, John J. Kent, Charles J. Krysiak, Eli M. Lippman, Douglas Macnab, H. George Meredith, Alfred M. Porth, Maurice J. Pressman, Norman R. Stone, Jr., Joseph P. Wiley.

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This Commission was originally created by the Governor in 1959 to improve the Workmen's Compensation Law and to insure that changes in the law are made to improve the workmen's compensation system in accordance with the standards, but at the same time to insure that Mary-