

sub-title "Claims and Compensation: Benefits", increasing the time allowed for the reporting of injuries or strains wherein claim is made for compensation for hernia under the workmen's compensation laws.

SECTION 1. *Be it enacted by the General Assembly of Maryland,* That Section 35(5)(a) of Article 101 of the Annotated Code of Maryland (1951 Edition), title "Workmen's Compensation", sub-title "Claims and Compensation: Benefits", be and it is hereby repealed and re-enacted, with amendments, to read as follows:

35. (5). (a). In all claims for compensation for hernia, compensation may be allowed only upon definite proof to the satisfaction of the Commission.

First. That there was an accidental injury causing hernia, arising out of and in the course of the employee's employment; or that the claimant sustained a hernia resulting from a strain arising out of and in the course of his or her employment.

Second. That the hernia did not exist prior to the injury or strain for which compensation is claimed; provided that if as the result of an accidental injury, or as the result of a strain, arising out of and in the course of the employee's employment a pre-existing hernia becomes so strangulated, incarcerated or becomes so aggravated that an immediate operation is necessary, the provision of this sub-paragraph requiring proof that hernia did not exist prior to the injury for which compensation is claimed shall not apply.

Third. That, anything in this Article respecting notice to the contrary notwithstanding, such injury or strain was reported to the employer within [fifteen] *thirty* days next following its occurrence.

SEC. 2. *And be it further enacted,* That nothing in this Act shall be construed or applied to affect or change the law as to any such injury or strain which occurred prior to the effective date of this Act.

SEC. 3 *And be it further enacted,* That this Act shall take effect June 1, 1954.

Approved March 12, 1954.