

36(8) thereof, TO PROVIDE FOR VOCATIONAL REHABILITATION FOR INJURED EMPLOYEES AND to provide for maintenance of employees during the time of their ~~physical or~~ vocational rehabilitation, and establishing a maximum payment to be allowed.

SECTION 1. *Be it enacted by the General Assembly of Maryland,* That new Section 36(9) be and it is hereby added to Article 101 of the Annotated Code of Maryland (1964 Replacement Volume and 1967 Supplement), title "Workmen's Compensation," subtitle "Claims and Compensation; Benefits," to follow immediately after Section 36(8) thereof, and to read as follows:

36.

(9) (a) *When as the result of an injury, an employee is disabled from performing work for which he was previously qualified, he shall be entitled to such vocational rehabilitation as may be reasonably necessary to restore him to suitable employment. It shall be the duty of the commission to refer the employee to an appropriate rehabilitation evaluation agency for evaluation of the practicability of, need for, and kind of training necessary and appropriate to render the employee fit for a remunerative occupation. Vocational rehabilitation training shall not extend for a period of more than ~~fifty two (52) weeks~~ TWENTY-FOUR (24) MONTHS.*

(b) *The commission upon receiving a report from the rehabilitation evaluation agency, shall promptly notify all parties of the contents of such report. Any party in interest may within ten (10) days from the date of issuance of such report, request a hearing to controvert the report. At such hearing, the parties may present such additional evidence as is deemed necessary. Following the hearing, the commission shall make a decision accepting or rejecting in whole or in part the vocational rehabilitation agency report and shall further issue an appropriate order regarding vocational rehabilitation of the employee.*

(c) *During the period an employee is undergoing vocational rehabilitation training, he shall be entitled to compensation as if he were temporarily totally disabled.*

(d) *Any employee undergoing vocational rehabilitation training in the course of which he is required to live at a location other than his home, shall also be entitled to receive in addition to the temporary total compensation provided for herein, sufficient funds to adequately maintain himself during such period of vocational rehabilitation training, but in no case to exceed forty dollars per week. The maintenance so provided shall be at the expense of the employer and insurer.*

(e) *If an employee refuses to accept vocational rehabilitation training, pursuant to an order of the commission, and the commission determines, such refusal to be unreasonable, all payments of compensation for temporary total disability shall be forfeited during the period of such refusal.*

(f) *This section shall apply only to injuries occurring on or after July 1, 1968.*