

SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF MARYLAND, That Sections 28 to 49, inclusive, of Article 89 of the Annotated Code of Maryland (1969 Replacement Volume and 1972 Supplement), title "Division of Labor and Industry," be and they are hereby repealed; and that new Sections 28 to [47] 49A be and they are hereby added in lieu thereof, to read as follows:

28. DECLARATION OF LEGISLATIVE INTENT AND PURPOSE.

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF MARYLAND FINDS THAT,

(A) PERSONAL INJURIES AND ILLNESSES ARISING OUT OF CONDITIONS OF EMPLOYMENT IMPOSE A SUBSTANTIAL BURDEN UPON EMPLOYERS AND EMPLOYEES IN TERMS OF LOST PRODUCTION, WAGE LOSS, MEDICAL EXPENSES AND DISABILITY COMPENSATION PAYMENTS; AND

(B) THE PREVENTION OF THESE INJURIES AND ILLNESSES IS IN THE BEST INTEREST AND WELFARE OF THE PEOPLE AND THE STATE, AND

(C) IT IS THE INTENT AND PURPOSE OF THIS SUBTITLE TO ASSURE AS FAR AS POSSIBLE EVERY WORKING MAN AND WOMAN IN THE STATE OF MARYLAND SAFE AND HEALTHFUL WORKING CONDITIONS AND TO PRESERVE OUR HUMAN RESOURCES BY:

(1) ENCOURAGING EMPLOYERS AND EMPLOYEES IN THEIR EFFORTS TO REDUCE THE NUMBER OF OCCUPATIONAL SAFETY AND HEALTH HAZARDS AT THEIR PLACES OF EMPLOYMENT, AND TO STIMULATE EMPLOYERS AND EMPLOYEES TO INSTITUTE NEW AND TO PERFECT EXISTING PROGRAMS FOR PROVIDING SAFE AND HEALTHFUL WORKING CONDITIONS;

(2) PROVIDING THAT EMPLOYERS AND EMPLOYEES HAVE SEPARATE BUT DEPENDENT RESPONSIBILITIES AND RIGHTS WITH RESPECT TO ACHIEVING SAFE AND HEALTHFUL WORKING CONDITIONS;

(3) BUILDING UPON ADVANCES ALREADY MADE THROUGH EMPLOYER AND EMPLOYEE INITIATIVE FOR PROVIDING SAFE AND HEALTHFUL WORKING CONDITIONS;

(4) PROVIDING FOR THE DEVELOPMENT AND PROMULGATION OF OCCUPATIONAL SAFETY AND HEALTH STANDARDS;

(5) PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE ENFORCEMENT AND COMPLIANCE PROGRAM;

(6) PROVIDING MEDICAL CRITERIA WHICH WILL ASSURE INSOFAR AS PRACTICABLE THAT NO EMPLOYEE WILL SUFFER DIMINISHED HEALTH, FUNCTIONAL CAPACITY, OR LIFE EXPECTANCY AS A RESULT OF HIS WORK EXPERIENCE;

(7) PROVIDING FOR EDUCATION AND TRAINING OF PERSONNEL FOR THE FAIR AND EFFICIENT ADMINISTRATION OF OCCUPATIONAL SAFETY AND HEALTH STANDARDS;

(8) PROVIDING FOR RESEARCH IN THE FIELD OF OCCUPATIONAL SAFETY AND HEALTH AND BY DEVELOPING INNOVATIVE METHODS, TECHNIQUES, AND APPROACHES FOR DEALING WITH