

(b) The members of the medical board shall devote as much of their time as may be required to perform the duties and carry out the functions of the board as set forth in this article. The chairman of the medical board and the two FOUR associate members of the board shall receive an annual salary as provided in the budget, and each member of the board shall be entitled to the reasonable and necessary traveling and other expenses incurred while actually engaged in the performance of their duties.

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Upon the filing of a claim for compensation for death from an occupational disease where an autopsy is necessary to accurately and scientifically ascertain and determine the cause of death, such autopsy shall be ordered by the medical board and shall be made under the supervision of the coroner, medical examiner or public official equivalent thereto. The medical board may designate a duly licensed physician, who is a specialist in such examinations, to perform or attend such autopsy, and to certify his findings thereon. Such findings shall be filed with the medical board and shall be a public record. The Workmen's Compensation Commission also may exercise such authority on its own motion or on application made to it at any time by any party in interest, upon the presentation of facts showing that a controversy may exist in regard to the cause of death or the existence of any occupational disease. All proceedings for compensation shall be suspended upon refusal of a claimant or claimants to permit such autopsy when so ordered, and no compensation shall be payable for any period during which autopsy is refused.

The Workmen's Compensation Commission shall refer every claim for compensation for an occupational disease to the medical board for investigation, hearing and report, excepting, however, such cases wherein there are not controverted medical issues. No award shall be made in any such case until the medical board shall have duly investigated and heard the case and made its report and its decisions with respect to all medical questions at issue. The date of disablement, if in dispute, shall be deemed a medical question.

The medical board, upon reference to it of a claim for occupational disease, shall notify the claimant or claimants and the employer to appear before it at a time and place stated in said notice. At such hearing either party may offer testimony of such witnesses as they may desire, which shall become a part of the record of the proceedings before the medical board. If the employee be living, he shall appear before the medical board at the time and place specified and shall then or thereafter submit to such examinations, including clinical and X-ray examinations, as the medical board may require. The claimant and the employer or his insurance carrier shall each be entitled, at