

## CHAPTER 179

## (Senate Bill 420)

AN ACT concerning

**Workers' Compensation - Department of Natural Resources**

FOR the purpose of providing that certain employees ~~engaged for fire fighting by~~ of the Department of Natural Resources are covered employees for the purpose of workers' compensation benefits; providing that certain paid law enforcement ~~paid law enforcement~~ employees suffering from Lyme disease are presumed, under certain circumstances, to have an occupational disease that was suffered in the line of duty and is compensable in a certain manner; providing for a certain exemption for certain individuals who object to a certain immunization for religious reasons; and generally relating to workers' compensation benefits.

BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,

Article - Labor and Employment

Section 9-207 and 9-503

Annotated Code of Maryland

(1991 Volume and 1998 Supplement)

SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF MARYLAND, That the Laws of Maryland read as follows:

**Article - Labor and Employment**

9-207.

(a) A registered crew member, A PAID LAW ENFORCEMENT EMPLOYEE, ~~A PAID LAW ENFORCEMENT EMPLOYEE~~, or an individual engaged for fire fighting by the Department of Natural Resources is a covered employee.

(b) Notwithstanding § 9-203 of this subtitle, an individual engaged for fire fighting who otherwise would be a covered employee under subsection (a) of this section is a covered employee even if the fire fighting takes place outside of the State.

~~(c) AN EMPLOYEE WHOSE POSITION REGULARLY PLACES THAT EMPLOYEE IN WOODS, FIELDS, OR GRASSY OUTDOORS IS A COVERED EMPLOYEE.~~

~~(D)~~ (C) Notwithstanding § 9-205 of this subtitle, an individual who otherwise would be a covered employee under subsection (a) of this section is a covered employee even if engaged temporarily or part time.

~~(d)~~ ~~(E)~~ (D) For the purpose of this title, the Department of Natural Resources is the employer of an individual who is a covered employee under this section.