

SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect June 1, 2000.

Approved May 11, 2000.

CHAPTER 417

(House Bill 827)

AN ACT concerning

Workers' Compensation - Calculation of Hearing Loss

FOR the purpose of requiring the calculation of hearing loss for workers' compensation to be measured by certain criteria; requiring the measurements to be conducted in a sound room that meets certain criteria; increasing the threshold of hearing for certain frequencies; ~~requiring the Maryland Academy of Audiology to develop certain materials for certain businesses to promote their awareness of legislative changes;~~ altering the levels of hearing loss for which certain employers must provide certain compensation; and generally relating to the calculation of hearing loss in workers' compensation.

BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,

Article - Labor and Employment

Section 9-505 and 9-650

Annotated Code of Maryland

(1999 Replacement Volume)

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

Article - Labor and Employment

9-505.

(a) Except as otherwise provided, an employer shall provide compensation in accordance with this title to a covered employee for loss of hearing by the covered employee due to industrial noise in the frequencies of 500, 1,000, [and] 2,000, AND 3,000 HERTZ [cycles per second].

(b) An employer is not liable for compensation for occupational deafness under subsection (a) of this section unless the covered employee claiming benefits worked for the employer in employment that exposed the covered employee to harmful noise for at least 90 days.