

BY repealing ~~and reenacting, with amendments,~~

Article - Insurance

Section ~~19-401(a)~~ 19-401

Annotated Code of Maryland

(1997 Volume and 1999 Supplement)

BY adding to

Article - Labor and Employment

Section 9-410

Annotated Code of Maryland

(1999 Replacement Volume)

BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,

Article - Labor and Employment

Section 9-404(g) and 9-405(d)

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 - Insurance

[19-401.

(a) An insurer that provides workers' compensation insurance in the State shall have in the State an office run by a competent individual ~~who handles~~, ~~TO HANDLE~~ all ~~of the~~ ~~CONTESTED~~ workers' compensation ~~work~~ ~~CLAIMS~~ in the State for the insurer.

(b) (1) A person that violates subsection (a) of this section is guilty of a misdemeanor and on conviction is subject to a fine not exceeding \$1,000.

(2) The Commissioner may revoke the certificate of authority of a person that is convicted under this section.]

Article - Labor and Employment

9-410.

(A) AN INSURER THAT PROVIDES WORKERS' COMPENSATION INSURANCE IN THE STATE SHALL HAVE IN THE STATE AN OFFICE RUN BY A COMPETENT INDIVIDUAL WHO HANDLES ALL OF THE WORKERS' COMPENSATION WORK IN THE STATE FOR THE INSURER.

(B) AN INSURER THAT PROVIDES WORKERS' COMPENSATION INSURANCE IN THE STATE, SHALL ESTABLISH A TOLL-FREE TELEPHONE NUMBER THROUGH WHICH AN INSURED OR CLAIMANT, OR A REPRESENTATIVE OF AN INSURED OR CLAIMANT, MAY MAKE DIRECT TELEPHONE INQUIRIES DURING REGULAR BUSINESS HOURS.