

and generally relating to office and personnel requirements for certain employers that self-insure and insurers providing workers' compensation insurance in the State.

BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,

Article – Labor and Employment

Section 9-405(d) and 9-410

Annotated Code of Maryland

(1999 Replacement Volume and 2000 Supplement)

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

Article – Labor and Employment

9-405.

(d) (1) Each employer that self-insures under this section shall have in the State [an office run by] a competent individual who handles all [of the] DISPUTED workers' compensation [work] CLAIMS in the State for the employer EACH EMPLOYER THAT SELF-INSURES UNDER THIS SECTION SHALL HAVE IN THE STATE COMPETENT INDIVIDUALS WHO:

(I) HANDLE AND ADJUST EACH DISPUTED WORKERS' COMPENSATION CLAIM IN THE STATE FOR THE EMPLOYER; AND

(II) POSSESS THE KNOWLEDGE AND EXPERIENCE TO HANDLE AND ADJUST EACH DISPUTED CLAIM.

(2) Each employer that self-insures under this section shall establish a toll-free telephone number through which an employee or claimant, or a representative of an employee or claimant, may make direct telephone inquiries during regular business hours.

(3) The Commission may assess a fine not exceeding \$1,000 on a self-insurer that does not comply with this subsection.

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] DISPUTED workers' compensation [work] CLAIMS in the State for the insurer AN INSURER THAT PROVIDES WORKERS' COMPENSATION INSURANCE IN THE STATE SHALL HAVE IN THE STATE COMPETENT INDIVIDUALS WHO:

(1) HANDLE AND ADJUST EACH DISPUTED WORKERS' COMPENSATION CLAIM IN THE STATE FOR THE INSURER; AND

(2) POSSESS THE KNOWLEDGE AND EXPERIENCE TO HANDLE AND ADJUST EACH DISPUTED CLAIM.