



95TH GENERAL ASSEMBLY

State of Illinois

2007 and 2008

SB0516

Introduced 2/8/2007, by Sen. Terry Link

SYNOPSIS AS INTRODUCED:

820 ILCS 305/6
820 ILCS 310/1

from Ch. 48, par. 138.6
from Ch. 48, par. 172.36

Amends the Workers' Compensation Act and the Workers' Occupational Diseases Act. Provides that any condition or impairment of health of a firefighter, emergency medical technician, or paramedic that results directly or indirectly from any bloodborne pathogen, lung or respiratory disease or condition, heart or vascular disease or condition, hypertension, tuberculosis, or cancer resulting in any disability to the employee shall be conclusively presumed to arise out of and in the course of the employee's employment and shall be conclusively presumed to be causally connected to the hazards or exposures of the employment. Provides that the presumption shall also apply to any hernia or hearing loss suffered by a firefighter, emergency medical technician, or paramedic. Provides that the presumption does not apply to an employee who has been a firefighter, emergency medical technician, or paramedic for less than 5 years at the time he or she files an Application for Adjustment of Claim concerning the condition or impairment.

LRB095 07179 WGH 27311 b

FISCAL NOTE ACT
MAY APPLY

STATE MANDATES
ACT MAY REQUIRE
REIMBURSEMENT

1 AN ACT concerning employment.

2 **Be it enacted by the People of the State of Illinois,**
3 **represented in the General Assembly:**

4 Section 5. The Workers' Compensation Act is amended by
5 changing Section 6 as follows:

6 (820 ILCS 305/6) (from Ch. 48, par. 138.6)

7 Sec. 6. (a) Every employer within the provisions of this
8 Act, shall, under the rules and regulations prescribed by the
9 Commission, post printed notices in their respective places of
10 employment in such number and at such places as may be
11 determined by the Commission, containing such information
12 relative to this Act as in the judgment of the Commission may
13 be necessary to aid employees to safeguard their rights under
14 this Act in event of injury.

15 In addition thereto, the employer shall post in a
16 conspicuous place on the place of the employment a printed or
17 typewritten notice stating whether he is insured or whether he
18 has qualified and is operating as a self-insured employer. In
19 the event the employer is insured, the notice shall state the
20 name and address of his insurance carrier, the number of the
21 insurance policy, its effective date and the date of
22 termination. In the event of the termination of the policy for
23 any reason prior to the termination date stated, the posted

1 notice shall promptly be corrected accordingly. In the event
2 the employer is operating as a self-insured employer the notice
3 shall state the name and address of the company, if any,
4 servicing the compensation payments of the employer, and the
5 name and address of the person in charge of making compensation
6 payments.

7 (b) Every employer subject to this Act shall maintain
8 accurate records of work-related deaths, injuries and illness
9 other than minor injuries requiring only first aid treatment
10 and which do not involve medical treatment, loss of
11 consciousness, restriction of work or motion, or transfer to
12 another job and file with the Commission, in writing, a report
13 of all accidental deaths, injuries and illnesses arising out of
14 and in the course of the employment resulting in the loss of
15 more than 3 scheduled work days. In the case of death such
16 report shall be made no later than 2 working days following the
17 accidental death. In all other cases such report shall be made
18 between the 15th and 25th of each month unless required to be
19 made sooner by rule of the Commission. In case the injury
20 results in permanent disability, a further report shall be made
21 as soon as it is determined that such permanent disability has
22 resulted or will result from the injury. All reports shall
23 state the date of the injury, including the time of day or
24 night, the nature of the employer's business, the name,
25 address, age, sex, conjugal condition of the injured person,
26 the specific occupation of the injured person, the direct cause

1 of the injury and the nature of the accident, the character of
2 the injury, the length of disability, and in case of death the
3 length of disability before death, the wages of the injured
4 person, whether compensation has been paid to the injured
5 person, or to his or her legal representative or his heirs or
6 next of kin, the amount of compensation paid, the amount paid
7 for physicians', surgeons' and hospital bills, and by whom
8 paid, and the amount paid for funeral or burial expenses if
9 known. The reports shall be made on forms and in the manner as
10 prescribed by the Commission and shall contain such further
11 information as the Commission shall deem necessary and require.
12 The making of these reports releases the employer from making
13 such reports to any other officer of the State and shall
14 satisfy the reporting provisions as contained in the "Health
15 and Safety Act" and "An Act in relation to safety inspections
16 and education in industrial and commercial establishments and
17 to repeal an Act therein named", approved July 18, 1955, as now
18 or hereafter amended. The reports filed with the Commission
19 pursuant to this Section shall be made available by the
20 Commission to the Director of Labor or his representatives and
21 to all other departments of the State of Illinois which shall
22 require such information for the proper discharge of their
23 official duties. Failure to file with the Commission any of the
24 reports required in this Section is a petty offense.

25 Except as provided in this paragraph, all reports filed
26 hereunder shall be confidential and any person having access to

1 such records filed with the Illinois Workers' Compensation
2 Commission as herein required, who shall release any
3 information therein contained including the names or otherwise
4 identify any persons sustaining injuries or disabilities, or
5 give access to such information to any unauthorized person,
6 shall be subject to discipline or discharge, and in addition
7 shall be guilty of a Class B misdemeanor. The Commission shall
8 compile and distribute to interested persons aggregate
9 statistics, taken from the reports filed hereunder. The
10 aggregate statistics shall not give the names or otherwise
11 identify persons sustaining injuries or disabilities or the
12 employer of any injured or disabled person.

13 (c) Notice of the accident shall be given to the employer
14 as soon as practicable, but not later than 45 days after the
15 accident. Provided:

16 (1) In case of the legal disability of the employee or any
17 dependent of a deceased employee who may be entitled to
18 compensation under the provisions of this Act, the limitations
19 of time by this Act provided do not begin to run against such
20 person under legal disability until a guardian has been
21 appointed.

22 (2) In cases of injuries sustained by exposure to
23 radiological materials or equipment, notice shall be given to
24 the employer within 90 days subsequent to the time that the
25 employee knows or suspects that he has received an excessive
26 dose of radiation.

1 No defect or inaccuracy of such notice shall be a bar to
2 the maintenance of proceedings on arbitration or otherwise by
3 the employee unless the employer proves that he is unduly
4 prejudiced in such proceedings by such defect or inaccuracy.

5 Notice of the accident shall give the approximate date and
6 place of the accident, if known, and may be given orally or in
7 writing.

8 (d) Every employer shall notify each injured employee who
9 has been granted compensation under the provisions of Section 8
10 of this Act of his rights to rehabilitation services and advise
11 him of the locations of available public rehabilitation centers
12 and any other such services of which the employer has
13 knowledge.

14 In any case, other than one where the injury was caused by
15 exposure to radiological materials or equipment or asbestos
16 unless the application for compensation is filed with the
17 Commission within 3 years after the date of the accident, where
18 no compensation has been paid, or within 2 years after the date
19 of the last payment of compensation, where any has been paid,
20 whichever shall be later, the right to file such application
21 shall be barred.

22 In any case of injury caused by exposure to radiological
23 materials or equipment or asbestos, unless application for
24 compensation is filed with the Commission within 25 years after
25 the last day that the employee was employed in an environment
26 of hazardous radiological activity or asbestos, the right to

1 file such application shall be barred.

2 If in any case except one where the injury was caused by
3 exposure to radiological materials or equipment or asbestos,
4 the accidental injury results in death application for
5 compensation for death may be filed with the Commission within
6 3 years after the date of death where no compensation has been
7 paid or within 2 years after the date of the last payment of
8 compensation where any has been paid, whichever shall be later,
9 but not thereafter.

10 If an accidental injury caused by exposure to radiological
11 material or equipment or asbestos results in death within 25
12 years after the last day that the employee was so exposed
13 application for compensation for death may be filed with the
14 Commission within 3 years after the date of death, where no
15 compensation has been paid, or within 2 years after the date of
16 the last payment of compensation where any has been paid,
17 whichever shall be later, but not thereafter.

18 (e) Any contract or agreement made by any employer or his
19 agent or attorney with any employee or any other beneficiary of
20 any claim under the provisions of this Act within 7 days after
21 the injury shall be presumed to be fraudulent.

22 (f) Any condition or impairment of health of an employee
23 employed as a firefighter, emergency medical technician (EMT),
24 or paramedic which results directly or indirectly from any
25 bloodborne pathogen, lung or respiratory disease or condition,
26 heart or vascular disease or condition, hypertension,

1 tuberculosis, or cancer resulting in any disability
2 (temporary, permanent, total, or partial) to the employee shall
3 be conclusively presumed to arise out of and in the course of
4 the employee's firefighting, EMT, or paramedic employment and,
5 further, shall be conclusively presumed to be causally
6 connected to the hazards or exposures of the employment. This
7 presumption shall also apply to any hernia or hearing loss
8 suffered by an employee employed as a firefighter, EMT, or
9 paramedic. However, this presumption shall not apply to any
10 employee who has been employed as a firefighter, EMT, or
11 paramedic for less than 5 years at the time he or she files an
12 Application for Adjustment of Claim concerning this condition
13 or impairment with the Illinois Workers' Compensation
14 Commission.

15 (Source: P.A. 93-721, eff. 1-1-05.)

16 Section 10. The Workers' Occupational Diseases Act is
17 amended by changing Section 1 as follows:

18 (820 ILCS 310/1) (from Ch. 48, par. 172.36)

19 Sec. 1. This Act shall be known and may be cited as the
20 "Workers' Occupational Diseases Act".

21 (a) The term "employer" as used in this Act shall be
22 construed to be:

23 1. The State and each county, city, town, township,
24 incorporated village, school district, body politic, or

1 municipal corporation therein.

2 2. Every person, firm, public or private corporation,
3 including hospitals, public service, eleemosynary,
4 religious or charitable corporations or associations, who
5 has any person in service or under any contract for hire,
6 express or implied, oral or written.

7 3. Where an employer operating under and subject to the
8 provisions of this Act loans an employee to another such
9 employer and such loaned employee sustains a compensable
10 occupational disease in the employment of such borrowing
11 employer and where such borrowing employer does not provide
12 or pay the benefits or payments due such employee, such
13 loaning employer shall be liable to provide or pay all
14 benefits or payments due such employee under this Act and
15 as to such employee the liability of such loaning and
16 borrowing employers shall be joint and several, provided
17 that such loaning employer shall in the absence of
18 agreement to the contrary be entitled to receive from such
19 borrowing employer full reimbursement for all sums paid or
20 incurred pursuant to this paragraph together with
21 reasonable attorneys' fees and expenses in any hearings
22 before the Illinois Workers' Compensation Commission or in
23 any action to secure such reimbursement. Where any benefit
24 is provided or paid by such loaning employer, the employee
25 shall have the duty of rendering reasonable co-operation in
26 any hearings, trials or proceedings in the case, including

1 such proceedings for reimbursement.

2 Where an employee files an Application for Adjustment
3 of Claim with the Illinois Workers' Compensation
4 Commission alleging that his or her claim is covered by the
5 provisions of the preceding paragraph, and joining both the
6 alleged loaning and borrowing employers, they and each of
7 them, upon written demand by the employee and within 7 days
8 after receipt of such demand, shall have the duty of filing
9 with the Illinois Workers' Compensation Commission a
10 written admission or denial of the allegation that the
11 claim is covered by the provisions of the preceding
12 paragraph and in default of such filing or if any such
13 denial be ultimately determined not to have been bona fide
14 then the provisions of Paragraph K of Section 19 of this
15 Act shall apply.

16 An employer whose business or enterprise or a
17 substantial part thereof consists of hiring, procuring or
18 furnishing employees to or for other employers operating
19 under and subject to the provisions of this Act for the
20 performance of the work of such other employers and who
21 pays such employees their salary or wage notwithstanding
22 that they are doing the work of such other employers shall
23 be deemed a loaning employer within the meaning and
24 provisions of this Section.

25 (b) The term "employee" as used in this Act, shall be
26 construed to mean:

1 1. Every person in the service of the State, county,
2 city, town, township, incorporated village or school
3 district, body politic or municipal corporation therein,
4 whether by election, appointment or contract of hire,
5 express or implied, oral or written, including any official
6 of the State, or of any county, city, town, township,
7 incorporated village, school district, body politic or
8 municipal corporation therein and except any duly
9 appointed member of the fire department in any city whose
10 population exceeds 500,000 according to the last Federal or
11 State census, and except any member of a fire insurance
12 patrol maintained by a board of underwriters in this State.
13 One employed by a contractor who has contracted with the
14 State, or a county, city, town, township, incorporated
15 village, school district, body politic or municipal
16 corporation therein, through its representatives, shall
17 not be considered as an employee of the State, county,
18 city, town, township, incorporated village, school
19 district, body politic or municipal corporation which made
20 the contract.

21 2. Every person in the service of another under any
22 contract of hire, express or implied, oral or written, who
23 contracts an occupational disease while working in the
24 State of Illinois, or who contracts an occupational disease
25 while working outside of the State of Illinois but where
26 the contract of hire is made within the State of Illinois,

1 and any person whose employment is principally localized
2 within the State of Illinois, regardless of the place where
3 the disease was contracted or place where the contract of
4 hire was made, including aliens, and minors who, for the
5 purpose of this Act, except Section 3 hereof, shall be
6 considered the same and have the same power to contract,
7 receive payments and give quittances therefor, as adult
8 employees. An employee or his or her dependents under this
9 Act who shall have a cause of action by reason of an
10 occupational disease, disablement or death arising out of
11 and in the course of his or her employment may elect or
12 pursue his or her remedy in the State where the disease was
13 contracted, or in the State where the contract of hire is
14 made, or in the State where the employment is principally
15 localized.

16 (c) "Commission" means the Illinois Workers' Compensation
17 Commission created by the Workers' Compensation Act, approved
18 July 9, 1951, as amended.

19 (d) In this Act the term "Occupational Disease" means a
20 disease arising out of and in the course of the employment or
21 which has become aggravated and rendered disabling as a result
22 of the exposure of the employment. Such aggravation shall arise
23 out of a risk peculiar to or increased by the employment and
24 not common to the general public.

25 A disease shall be deemed to arise out of the employment if
26 there is apparent to the rational mind, upon consideration of

1 all the circumstances, a causal connection between the
2 conditions under which the work is performed and the
3 occupational disease. The disease need not to have been
4 foreseen or expected but after its contraction it must appear
5 to have had its origin or aggravation in a risk connected with
6 the employment and to have flowed from that source as a
7 rational consequence.

8 An employee shall be conclusively deemed to have been
9 exposed to the hazards of an occupational disease when, for any
10 length of time however short, he or she is employed in an
11 occupation or process in which the hazard of the disease
12 exists; provided however, that in a claim of exposure to atomic
13 radiation, the fact of such exposure must be verified by the
14 records of the central registry of radiation exposure
15 maintained by the Department of Public Health or by some other
16 recognized governmental agency maintaining records of such
17 exposures whenever and to the extent that the records are on
18 file with the Department of Public Health or the agency.

19 Any injury to or disease or death of an employee arising
20 from the administration of a vaccine, including without
21 limitation smallpox vaccine, to prepare for, or as a response
22 to, a threatened or potential bioterrorist incident to the
23 employee as part of a voluntary inoculation program in
24 connection with the person's employment or in connection with
25 any governmental program or recommendation for the inoculation
26 of workers in the employee's occupation, geographical area, or

1 other category that includes the employee is deemed to arise
2 out of and in the course of the employment for all purposes
3 under this Act. This paragraph added by Public Act 93-829 ~~this~~
4 ~~amendatory Act of the 93rd General Assembly~~ is declarative of
5 existing law and is not a new enactment.

6 The employer liable for the compensation in this Act
7 provided shall be the employer in whose employment the employee
8 was last exposed to the hazard of the occupational disease
9 claimed upon regardless of the length of time of such last
10 exposure, except, in cases of silicosis or asbestosis, the only
11 employer liable shall be the last employer in whose employment
12 the employee was last exposed during a period of 60 days or
13 more after the effective date of this Act, to the hazard of
14 such occupational disease, and, in such cases, an exposure
15 during a period of less than 60 days, after the effective date
16 of this Act, shall not be deemed a last exposure. If a miner
17 who is suffering or suffered from pneumoconiosis was employed
18 for 10 years or more in one or more coal mines there shall,
19 effective July 1, 1973 be a rebuttable presumption that his or
20 her pneumoconiosis arose out of such employment.

21 If a deceased miner was employed for 10 years or more in
22 one or more coal mines and died from a respirable disease there
23 shall, effective July 1, 1973, be a rebuttable presumption that
24 his or her death was due to pneumoconiosis.

25 Any condition or impairment of health of an employee
26 employed as a firefighter, emergency medical technician (EMT),

1 or paramedic which results directly or indirectly from any
2 bloodborne pathogen, lung or respiratory disease or condition,
3 heart or vascular disease or condition, hypertension,
4 tuberculosis, or cancer resulting in any disability
5 (temporary, permanent, total, or partial) to the employee shall
6 be conclusively presumed to arise out of and in the course of
7 the employee's firefighting, EMT, or paramedic employment and,
8 further, shall be conclusively presumed to be causally
9 connected to the hazards or exposures of the employment. This
10 presumption shall also apply to any hernia or hearing loss
11 suffered by an employee employed as a firefighter, EMT, or
12 paramedic. However, this presumption shall not apply to any
13 employee who has been employed as a firefighter, EMT, or
14 paramedic for less than 5 years at the time he or she files an
15 Application for Adjustment of Claim concerning this condition
16 or impairment with the Illinois Workers' Compensation
17 Commission.

18 The insurance carrier liable shall be the carrier whose
19 policy was in effect covering the employer liable on the last
20 day of the exposure rendering such employer liable in
21 accordance with the provisions of this Act.

22 (e) "Disablement" means an impairment or partial
23 impairment, temporary or permanent, in the function of the body
24 or any of the members of the body, or the event of becoming
25 disabled from earning full wages at the work in which the
26 employee was engaged when last exposed to the hazards of the

1 occupational disease by the employer from whom he or she claims
2 compensation, or equal wages in other suitable employment; and
3 "disability" means the state of being so incapacitated.

4 (f) No compensation shall be payable for or on account of
5 any occupational disease unless disablement, as herein
6 defined, occurs within two years after the last day of the last
7 exposure to the hazards of the disease, except in cases of
8 occupational disease caused by berylliosis or by the inhalation
9 of silica dust or asbestos dust and, in such cases, within 3
10 years after the last day of the last exposure to the hazards of
11 such disease and except in the case of occupational disease
12 caused by exposure to radiological materials or equipment, and
13 in such case, within 25 years after the last day of last
14 exposure to the hazards of such disease.

15 (Source: P.A. 93-721, eff. 1-1-05; 93-829, eff. 7-28-04;
16 revised 10-25-04.)