Wisconsin Legislative Council

ACT MEMO

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2023 Wisconsin Act 213 [2023 Assembly Bill 1073]

Various Changes to the Worker's Compensation Law

2023 WISCONSIN ACT 213

2023 Wisconsin Act 213 makes changes to the state worker's compensation law. The changes were recommended by the Worker's Compensation Advisory Council, which is statutorily directed to advise the Department of Workforce Development (DWD) on the worker's compensation law and to recommend legislative changes¹.

Act 213 does all of the following:

- Increases the maximum weekly compensation rate for permanent partial disability to \$438 for injuries occurring on or after the act's effective date to December 31, 2024, and to \$446 for injuries occurring on or after January 1, 2025.
- Updates terminology from "advanced practice nurse prescribers" to "advanced practice registered nurses" in ch. 102, Stats.
- Provides that the statute of limitations for compensation claims begins running from the date a compromise agreement is issued by the Division of Hearings and Appeals (DHA), and that subsequent claims are not barred except as provided under s. 102.17 (4), Stats.
- Specifies that after DHA issues an order on the merits of a case or an order approving a compromise agreement, DHA must return the case file to DWD and DWD must conduct further administrative activities, including closing the claim.
- Authorizes an employer or employer's insurer to voluntarily make a lump sum payment of unaccrued permanent partial disability benefits in undisputed claims without an interest credit.
- Changes references to spouses to gender-neutral terminology in ch. 102, Stats.
- Updates citations to the amended federal Rehabilitation Act of 1973.
- Increases the threshold for payments from the uninsured employers fund from \$1,000,000 to \$2,000,000.

Effective date: March 24, 2024

For a full history of the bill, visit the Legislature's bill history page.

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¹ Section 102.14 (2), Stats. The Council recommended a second bill, 2023 Assembly Bill 1074/2023 Senate Bill 992, which received a public hearing but was not taken up in executive session.