

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE BILL

No. 961

Session of
2005

INTRODUCED BY HICKERNELL, TURZAI, BOYD, ARMSTRONG, BALDWIN,
BASTIAN, BENNINGHOFF, CAPPELLI, CAUSER, CLYMER, DALLY,
DENLINGER, ELLIS, FLEAGLE, FORCIER, GEIST, GILLESPIE,
GINGRICH, GODSHALL, HARRIS, HERSHEY, HUTCHINSON, KAUFFMAN,
KILLION, MAJOR, MARSICO, McILHATTAN, METCALFE, R. MILLER,
S. MILLER, O'NEILL, PICKETT, REICHLEY, SAYLOR, STERN,
R. STEVENSON, E. Z. TAYLOR, TRUE, WILT, YOUNGBLOOD AND ZUG,
MARCH 15, 2005

REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON LABOR RELATIONS, MARCH 15, 2005

AN ACT

1 Amending the act of June 2, 1915 (P.L.736, No.338), entitled, as
2 reenacted and amended, "An act defining the liability of an
3 employer to pay damages for injuries received by an employe
4 in the course of employment; establishing an elective
5 schedule of compensation; providing procedure for the
6 determination of liability and compensation thereunder; and
7 prescribing penalties," further providing for the schedule of
8 compensation.

9 The General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania
10 hereby enacts as follows:

11 Section 1. Section 306(f.1)(1) of the act of June 2, 1915
12 (P.L.736, No.338), known as the Workers' Compensation Act,
13 reenacted and amended June 21, 1939 (P.L.520, No.281) and
14 amended June 24, 1996 (P.L.350, No.57) is amended to read:

15 Section 306. The following schedule of compensation is
16 hereby established:

17 * * *

18 (f.1) (1) (i) The employer shall provide payment in

1 accordance with this section for reasonable surgical and medical
2 services, services rendered by physicians or other health care
3 providers, including an additional opinion when invasive surgery
4 may be necessary, medicines and supplies, as and when needed.
5 Provided an employer establishes a list of at least six
6 designated health care providers, no more than four of whom may
7 be a coordinated care organization and no fewer than three of
8 whom shall be physicians, the employee shall be required to visit
9 one of the physicians or other health care providers so
10 designated and shall continue to visit the same or another
11 designated physician or health care provider for a period of
12 [ninety (90)] one hundred eighty (180) days from the date of the
13 first visit: Provided, however, That the employer shall not
14 include on the list a physician or other health care provider
15 who is employed, owned or controlled by the employer or the
16 employer's insurer unless employment, ownership or control is
17 disclosed on the list. Should invasive surgery for an employee be
18 prescribed by a physician or other health care provider so
19 designated by the employer, the employee shall be permitted to
20 receive an additional opinion from any health care provider of
21 the employee's own choice. If the additional opinion differs from
22 the opinion provided by the physician or health care provider so
23 designated by the employer, the employee shall determine which
24 course of treatment to follow: Provided, That the second opinion
25 provides a specific and detailed course of treatment. If the
26 employee chooses to follow the procedures designated in the
27 second opinion, such procedures shall be performed by one of the
28 physicians or other health care providers so designated by the
29 employer for a period of ninety (90) days from the date of the
30 visit to the physician or other health care provider of the

1 employee's own choice. Should the employee not comply with the
2 foregoing, the employer will be relieved from liability for the
3 payment for the services rendered during such applicable period.
4 It shall be the duty of the employer to provide a clearly
5 written notification of the employee's rights and duties under
6 this section to the employee. The employer shall further ensure
7 that the employee has been informed and that he understands these
8 rights and duties. This duty shall be evidenced only by the
9 employee's written acknowledgment of having been informed and
10 having understood his rights and duties. Any failure of the
11 employer to provide and evidence such notification shall relieve
12 the employee from any notification duty owed, notwithstanding any
13 provision of this act to the contrary, and the employer shall
14 remain liable for all rendered treatment. Subsequent treatment
15 may be provided by any health care provider of the employee's own
16 choice. Any employee who, next following termination of the
17 applicable period, is provided treatment from a nondesignated
18 health care provider shall notify the employer within five (5)
19 days of the first visit to said health care provider. Failure to
20 so notify the employer will relieve the employer from liability
21 for the payment for the services rendered prior to appropriate
22 notice if such services are determined pursuant to paragraph (6)
23 to have been unreasonable or unnecessary.

24 (ii) In addition to the above service, the employer shall
25 provide payment for medicines and supplies, hospital treatment,
26 services and supplies and orthopedic appliances, and prostheses
27 in accordance with this section. Whenever an employee shall have
28 suffered the loss of a limb, part of a limb, or an eye, the
29 employer shall also provide for an artificial limb or eye or
30 other prostheses of a type and kind recommended by the doctor

1 attending such employe in connection with such injury and any
2 replacements for an artificial limb or eye which the employe may
3 require at any time thereafter, together with such continued
4 medical care as may be prescribed by the doctor attending such
5 employe in connection with such injury as well as such training
6 as may be required in the proper use of such prostheses. The
7 provisions of this section shall apply to injuries whether or
8 not loss of earning power occurs. If hospital confinement is
9 required, the employe shall be entitled to semiprivate
10 accommodations, but, if no such facilities are available,
11 regardless of the patient's condition, the employer, not the
12 patient, shall be liable for the additional costs for the
13 facilities in a private room.

14 (iii) Nothing in this section shall prohibit an insurer or
15 an employer from contracting with any individual, partnership,
16 association or corporation to provide case management and
17 coordination of services with regard to injured employes.

18 * * *

19 Section 2. This act shall take effect in 60 days.