
THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE BILL

No. 636 Session of
2015

INTRODUCED BY HICKERNELL, BAKER, FEE, GRELL, GROVE, MAJOR,
MENTZER, METCALFE, PICKETT AND ZIMMERMAN, FEBRUARY 26, 2015

REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON LABOR AND INDUSTRY, FEBRUARY 26, 2015

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," in liability and compensation,
8 further providing for the schedule of 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
19 accordance with this section for reasonable surgical and medical
20 services, services rendered by physicians or other health care
21 providers, including an additional opinion when invasive surgery

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

1 such applicable period. It shall be the duty of the employer to
2 provide a clearly written notification of the employe's rights
3 and duties under this section to the employe. The employer shall
4 further ensure that the employe has been informed and that he
5 understands these rights and duties. This duty shall be
6 evidenced only by the employe's written acknowledgment of having
7 been informed and having understood his rights and duties. Any
8 failure of the employer to provide and evidence such
9 notification shall relieve the employe from any notification
10 duty owed, notwithstanding any provision of this act to the
11 contrary, and the employer shall remain liable for all rendered
12 treatment. Subsequent treatment may be provided by any health
13 care provider of the employe's own choice. Any employe who, next
14 following termination of the applicable period, is provided
15 treatment from a nondesignated health care provider shall notify
16 the employer within five (5) days of the first visit to said
17 health care provider. Failure to so notify the employer will
18 relieve the employer from liability for the payment for the
19 services rendered prior to appropriate notice if such services
20 are determined pursuant to paragraph (6) to have been
21 unreasonable or unnecessary.

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

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

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

16 * * *

17 Section 2. The amendment of section 306(f.1)(1) of the act
18 shall apply to injuries occurring on or after the effective date
19 of this section.

20 Section 3. This act shall take effect in 60 days.