

To accompany the petition of Roy F. Williams, Executive Vice President, Associated Industries of Massachusetts, for legislation to provide an impartial physicians' panel in cardiac cases before the Industrial Accident Board. Labor and Industries.

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

In the Year One Thousand Nine Hundred and Fifty-Eight.

AN ACT TO PROVIDE AN IMPARTIAL PHYSICIANS' PANEL IN CARDIAC CASES BEFORE THE INDUSTRIAL ACCIDENT BOARD.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Court assembled, and by the authority of the same, as follows:

1 Section 9 of chapter 152 of the General Laws, as most re-
2 cently amended by chapter 442 of the acts of 1949, is hereby
3 further amended by adding the following paragraph at the end
4 thereof:—

5 In all cases, at the time of filing a claim for compensation,
6 where an employee is claiming to be disabled as a result of an
7 injury related to any cardiac condition, or where there is a
8 claim that death resulted from an injury related to any cardiac
9 condition, the division or any member thereof shall refer the
10 claim to one or more three-man cardiac advisory panels. The
11 members of such cardiac panel or panels shall be appointed for
12 terms of one, two and three years, respectively, by the governor,
13 with the advice and consent of council, from among those
14 physicians who have qualified as members of the American
15 Board of Internal Medicine and who have a special interest in
16 cardiovascular disease. All terms thereafter shall be for three
17 years and until the successor of each member whose term of
18 office expires is appointed and has qualified. All vacancies

19 shall be filled in the same manner as appointments are made in
20 the first instance. The insurer shall reimburse the division for
21 the fees and other expenses of such cardiac panel, subject to the
22 approval of the division as to amounts which shall equal cus-
23 tomary fees and expenses paid other impartial physicians. Said
24 cardiac panel shall examine the employee, may consider and
25 study all pertinent medical and hospital records and other in-
26 formation relative to the claim in question which shall be sub-
27 mitted to them by said division or member thereof; and shall
28 make to the division a complete report which shall include the
29 results of their study, together with their diagnosis and their
30 opinion as to the extent and cause of disability if any, or death.
31 The report of the panel shall be admissible as evidence in any
32 proceeding before the division or a member thereof; provided,
33 that the employee and the insurer have seasonably been fur-
34 nished with copies thereof.