

By Mr. Harmon, a petition of the Massachusetts State Labor Council, AFL-CIO, by James A. Broyer, director, for legislation to expedite payments of workmen's compensation. Commerce and Labor.

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

In the Year One Thousand Nine Hundred and Seventy-One.

AN ACT EXPEDITING PAYMENTS OF WORKMEN'S COMPENSATION.

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 1. Section seven of Chapter 152 of the General
2 Laws is hereby amended by striking the words "for hearing
3 by a member thereof", and adding the following words: —
4 "for conference by a member thereof, to be held not later
5 than twenty-eight days from the date such notice was received
6 by the division. The employee may be present or represented
7 by counsel. The member shall make such inquiries and inves-
8 tigations as shall be deemed necessary and shall have the power
9 to require and receive reports of injury, signed statements
10 of the employee and other witnesses, medical and hospital re-
11 ports and records, and such other oral and written matter as
12 shall enable him to determine whether there is reason to
13 believe that weekly payment of compensation under this
14 chapter is due. If the member determines that there is reason
15 to believe that compensation is due under this chapter, he
16 shall order such weekly payments. The division shall set
17 the case for hearing before another member thereof. If it is
18 then decided that weekly payments were not due the insurer
19 shall be reimbursed by the state treasurer from the fund es-
20 tablished by section sixty-five. In the event that said fund
21 becomes exhausted, the state treasurer shall make such pay-
22 ments from the general fund without appropriation. The em-
23 ployee shall reimburse the state treasurer for the amounts
24 paid the insurer.

1 SECTION 2. Section sixty-five of Chapter 152 of the General
2 Laws is hereby amended by inserting after the word "thirty-
3 seven" the following words: — "and the purposes set forth
4 in section seven", so that the second sentence thereof shall
5 read: — "Such payments shall constitute a special fund in the
6 custody of the state treasurer, who shall make payments there-
7 from upon the written order of the division for the purposes
8 set forth in section thirty-seven, and the purposes set forth
9 in section seven and for the purpose of paying the expense of
10 printing the necessary record, papers and briefs in certain
11 appeals to the supreme judicial court as provided in section
12 eleven."