
By Mr. Wetmore, a petition (accompanied by bill, Senate, No. 162) of Robert D. Wetmore for legislation to provide cost-of-living increases to recipients of workmen's compensation benefits. Commerce and Labor.

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

In the Year One Thousand Nine Hundred and Eighty-two.

AN ACT PROVIDING COST OF LIVING INCREASES.

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 34A of chapter 152 of the General Laws
2 as most recently amended by and as appearing in section 6
3 of chapter 474 of the Acts of 1976 is hereby further amended
4 by inserting after the second paragraph the following para-
5 graph: —

6 “Effective October first of each year the weekly compensa-
7 tion benefits payable under this section, arising out of injuries
8 sustained after the date of enactment of this act shall be
9 increased by a percentage equal to the percentage the average
10 weekly wage in the comonwealth, as determined according
11 to the provisions of subsection (a) of section fifty-one A, and
12 promulgated by the director of the division of employment
13 security on or before October first of each year, exceeds the
14 average weekly wage in the commonwealth as above deter-
15 mined, for the period beginning with the preceding October
16 first.

17 In the event the average weekly wage in the common-
18 wealth, as above determined, decreases, compensation benefits
19 shall not be reduced.

20 The chairman of the industrial accident board shall com-
21 pute and promulgate such compensation benefits on each
22 October first.

1 SECTION 2. Section 31 of chapter 152 of the General Laws,
2 as most recently amended by and as appearing in chapter
3 461 of the Acts of 1978 is hereby further amended by insert-

4 ing after the third paragraph the following paragraph: —

5 “Effective October first of each year weekly benefits payable
6 to each person under this section for a death which occurred
7 after the date of enactment of this act shall be increased by
8 a percentage equal to the percentage the average weekly wage
9 in the commonwealth, as determined according to the pro-
10 visions of subsection (a) of section twenty-nine of chapter
11 one hundred and fifty-one A, and promulgated by the director
12 of the division of employment security on or before October
13 first of each year, exceeds the average weekly wage in the
14 commonwealth, as above determined, for the period beginning
15 with the preceding October first.”

16 In the event the average weekly wage in the commonwealth,
17 as above determined, decreases, compensation benefits shall
18 not be reduced.

19 The chairman of the industrial accident board shall com-
20 pute and promulgate such compensation benefits on each
21 October first.

1 SECTION 3. Chapter 152 of the General Laws is hereby
2 amended by striking out Section 24, as most recently amend-
3 ed by Section 5 of Chapter 174 of the Acts of 1955, and in-
4 serting in place thereof the following new section: —

5 *Section 24.* The liability of an employer to provide for the
6 payment of compensation to his employees prescribed by this
7 chapter shall be exclusive and in place of all other liability of
8 such employer to the employee, his legal representatives,
9 spouse, parents, dependents, next of kin, and anyone other-
10 wise entitled to recover damages from such employer on ac-
11 count of such injury or death except as otherwise set forth in
12 this chapter.

13 An employee shall be held to have waived his right of ac-
14 tion at common law or under the law of any other jurisdiction
15 in respect to an injury therein occurring, to recover damages
16 for personal injuries if he shall not have given his employer,
17 at the time of his contract for hire, written notice that he
18 claimed such right, or, if the contract of hire was made be-
19 fore the employer became an insured person or self-insurer, if
20 the employee shall not have given the said notice within thirty
21 days of the time said employer became an insured person or a

22 self-insurer. An employee who has given notice to his em-
23 ployer that he claimed his right of action as aforesaid may
24 waive such claim by a written notice, which shall take effect
25 five days after it is delivered to the employer or his agent.
26 The notices required by this section shall be given in such
27 manner as the division may approve.

The first part of the report deals with the general situation in the country. It is noted that the economy is still in a state of depression and that the government is struggling to meet its obligations. The report also mentions the need for further reforms and the importance of maintaining law and order.

In the second part, the author discusses the financial situation of the government. It is pointed out that the budget deficit is still large and that the government is relying heavily on foreign loans. The report suggests that the government should take steps to reduce its expenditure and to increase its revenue.

The third part of the report deals with the social and economic conditions of the country. It is noted that the standard of living is still low and that there is a widespread feeling of discontent among the people. The report suggests that the government should take steps to improve the living conditions of the people and to address their concerns.

In the fourth part, the author discusses the political situation in the country. It is noted that there is a general feeling of dissatisfaction with the government and that there is a need for a change in leadership. The report suggests that the government should hold free and fair elections as soon as possible.

The fifth part of the report deals with the international situation. It is noted that the country is still facing a difficult international environment and that there is a need for closer relations with other countries. The report suggests that the government should take steps to improve its international relations and to seek support from other countries.

In the final part, the author concludes the report by summarizing the main findings and recommendations. It is noted that the country is still facing many challenges and that there is a need for a comprehensive reform program. The report suggests that the government should take prompt action on the recommendations made in the report.

The report is a valuable document that provides a clear and concise overview of the current situation in the country. It is a must-read for anyone interested in the development of the country.