

By Mr. Honan of Boston, petition of Kevin G. Honan and another for legislation to make certain changes in the workers' compensation system. Commerce and Labor.

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

In the Year One Thousand Nine Hundred and Ninety-Seven.

AN ACT TO IMPROVE THE WORKERS' COMPENSATION SYSTEM.

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 21(B)(10) of Chapter 62C is hereby  
2 amended by inserting the words "the commissioner of the depart-  
3 ment of industrial accidents" after the words "the commissioner of  
4 public welfare,".

1 SECTION 2. Section 21(b)(14) of Chapter 65C is hereby  
2 amended by striking it and inserting in place thereof the  
3 following:—

4 "(14) the disclosure to any state, county or municipal officials,  
5 whether elected or appointed, who functions as an appointing  
6 authority or their designees, of information necessary to ascertain  
7 or confirm the existence of fraud, abuse or improper payments to  
8 an applicant for, or recipient of, workers' compensation benefits.  
9 Such information shall be provided within thirty days of receipt of  
10 a written request from said officials. Said officials, or their  
11 designees, may further disclose any information obtained from the  
12 commissioner, or his representatives, to appropriate members of  
13 the department of industrial accidents and/or the office of the  
14 attorney general, for the purposes of asserting a claim or fraud,  
15 abuse or improper payments to an applicant for, or recipient of,  
16 workers' compensation benefits. If such information reveals the  
17 possibility of fraud, abuse or improper payments to an applicant  
18 for, or recipient of, workers' compensation benefits, the commis-  
19 sioner will provide complete copies of the relevant tax returns to  
20 the requesting officials."

