

Stricken language would be deleted from and underlined language would be added to the law as it existed prior to this session of the General Assembly.

1 State of Arkansas
2 84th General Assembly
3 Regular Session, 2003

A Bill

HOUSE BILL 2251

4
5 By: Representative Haak
6 By: Senator Horn

For An Act To Be Entitled

10 AN ACT TO ANNUALLY INCREASE THE LIMITATIONS ON
11 WORKERS' COMPENSATION BENEFITS PAID BY THE
12 EMPLOYER OR ITS INSURANCE CARRIER BY THE SAME
13 PERCENTAGE AS THE STATE AVERAGE WEEKLY WAGE; AND
14 FOR OTHER PURPOSES.

Subtitle

16 AN ACT TO ANNUALLY INCREASE THE
17 LIMITATIONS ON WORKERS' COMPENSATION
18 BENEFITS PAID BY THE EMPLOYER OR ITS
19 INSURANCE CARRIER BY THE SAME PERCENTAGE
20 AS THE STATE AVERAGE WEEKLY WAGE.
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24 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ARKANSAS:

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26 SECTION 1. Arkansas Code § 11-9-502 is amended to read as follows:

27 11-9-502. Limitations on compensation - Exceptions.

28 (a) The benefits shall be paid for a period not to exceed four hundred
29 fifty (450) weeks of disability, except that this limitation shall not apply
30 in cases of permanent total disability or death.

31 (b)(1) For injuries occurring on and after ~~March 1, 1981,~~ the
32 effective date of subsection (c) of this section, the first ~~seventy-five~~
33 ~~thousand dollars (\$75,000)~~ one hundred fifty thousand dollars (\$150,000) of
34 weekly benefits for death or permanent total disability shall be paid by the
35 employer or its insurance carrier in the manner provided in this chapter.

36 (2) An employee or dependent of an employee who receives a total



1 of ~~seventy five thousand dollars (\$75,000)~~ one hundred fifty thousand dollars
2 (\$150,000) in weekly benefits shall be eligible to continue to draw benefits
3 at the rates prescribed in this chapter, but all benefits in excess of
4 ~~seventy five thousand dollars (\$75,000)~~ one hundred fifty thousand dollars
5 (\$150,000) shall be payable from the Death and Permanent Total Disability
6 Trust Fund.

7 (3) The trust fund shall consist of such funds as may be
8 prescribed by law and shall be administered, invested, and disbursed by the
9 Workers' Compensation Commission.

10 (4) Each employer or the insurance carrier of the employer in
11 each case of death of an employee where there are no dependents shall pay
12 into the trust fund the sum of five hundred dollars (\$500).

13 (c) The limitations on benefits paid by the employer or its insurance
14 carrier under this section shall be proportionately increased by the same
15 percentage as the percentage of increase in the state average weekly wage
16 each January 1st, not to exceed five percent (5%).

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