

WEST VIRGINIA LEGISLATURE

2016 REGULAR SESSION

Introduced

House Bill 2096

2015 Carryover

(BY DELEGATE CAPUTO)

[Introduced January 13, 2016; referred to the
Committee on Banking and Insurance then the
Judiciary.]

1 A BILL to amend and reenact §33-2-21 of the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended, relating
 2 to granting the Insurance Commissioner the authority to regulate and penalize self-insured
 3 employers; providing for monetary penalties; and permitting noncompliant self-insured
 4 employers to become compliant without penalty.

Be it enacted by the Legislature of West Virginia:

1 That §33-2-21 of the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended, be amended and
 2 reenacted to read as follows:

ARTICLE 2. INSURANCE COMMISSIONER.

**§33-2-21. Authority of Insurance Commissioner to regulate workers= compensation
 industry and self-insured employers; authority of Insurance Commissioner to
 administer chapter twenty-three of the Code of West Virginia.**

1 (a) Upon the termination of the Workers' Compensation Commission pursuant to chapter
 2 twenty-three of this code, the powers and duties heretofore imposed upon the Workers'
 3 Compensation Commission as they relate to general administration of ~~the provisions of said~~ that
 4 chapter are hereby transferred to and imposed upon the Insurance Commissioner.

5 (b) Unless otherwise specified in chapter twenty-three of this code, upon termination of
 6 the Workers' Compensation Commission, the duties imposed upon the Workers' Compensation
 7 Commission as they relate to the award and payment of disability and death benefits and the
 8 review of claims in articles four and five of ~~said~~ that chapter will be imposed upon the Employers
 9 Mutual Insurance Company established pursuant to article two-c of ~~said~~ that chapter, a private
 10 carrier offering workers' compensation insurance in this state and self-insured employers.
 11 Whenever reference is made to the Workers' Compensation Commissioner in those articles, the
 12 duty prescribed shall apply to the Employers Mutual Insurance Company, a private carrier or
 13 self-insured employer, as applicable.

14 (c) From the effective date of this enactment, the Insurance Commissioner shall regulate
15 all insurers licensed to transact workers' compensation insurance in this state and ~~all of the~~
16 ~~provisions of this chapter shall apply to such~~ applies to those insurers, unless otherwise exempted
17 by statute.

18 (d) Notwithstanding any provision of the code to the contrary the Insurance Commissioner
19 shall regulate all self-insured employers in this state and this chapter shall apply to those insurers
20 from the effective date of this subsection. Upon notice of noncompliance of this chapter by the
21 Insurance Commissioner, a self-insured employer has ninety days to come into compliance.
22 Thereafter, a noncompliant self-insured employer is subject to the penalties permitted by section
23 six, article eleven of this chapter.

NOTE: The purpose of this bill is to grant the Insurance Commissioner the power to regulate and penalize self-insured employers. The bill also permits noncompliant employers to be compliant without penalty within ninety days after receiving notice of noncompliance. The bill also provides for monetary penalties.

Strike-throughs indicate language that would be stricken from the present law, and underscoring indicates new language that would be added.