

109TH CONGRESS
2^D SESSION

S. 3987

To amend the Longshore and Harbor Workers' Compensation Act to improve the compensation system, and for other purposes.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

SEPTEMBER 28, 2006

Mr. ISAKSON introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions

A BILL

To amend the Longshore and Harbor Workers' Compensation Act to improve the compensation system, and for other purposes.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE; REFERENCES.**

4 (a) **SHORT TITLE.**—This Act may be cited as the
5 “Longshore and Harbor Workers' Compensation Act
6 Amendments of 2006”.

7 (b) **REFERENCES.**—Except as otherwise expressly
8 provided, whenever in this Act an amendment or repeal
9 is expressed in terms of an amendment to, or repeal of,
10 a section or other provision, the reference shall be consid-

1 ered to be made to a section or other provision of the
2 Longshore and Harbor Workers' Compensation Act (33
3 U.S.C. 901 et seq.).

4 **SEC. 2. INTENT OF CONGRESS; NEUTRAL INTERPRETATION.**

5 The Act (33 U.S.C. 901 et seq.) is amended by in-
6 serting after section 1 the following:

7 **“SEC. 1A. CONGRESSIONAL INTENT OF NEUTRAL INTER-
8 PRETATION.**

9 “It is the intent of Congress that—

10 “(1) in a dispute concerning the facts in a
11 claim brought under this Act, the facts are not to
12 be given a broad liberal construction in favor of the
13 employee or of the employer, and the laws pertaining
14 to a claim brought under this Act are to be con-
15 strued in accordance with the basic principles of
16 statutory construction and not liberally in favor of
17 either the employee or employer;

18 “(2) the system established under this Act shall
19 be an efficient and self-executing system that is not
20 an economic or administrative burden; and

21 “(3) the Department of Labor and the Benefits
22 Review Board shall administer this Act in a manner
23 which facilitates the self-execution of the system es-
24 tablished under this Act and the process of ensuring
25 a prompt and cost-effective delivery of payments.”.

1 **SEC. 3. DEFINITIONS.**

2 Section 2 (33 U.S.C. 902) is amended—

3 (1) in paragraph (1), by striking “association.”
4 and inserting “association, but does not include the
5 Secretary.”;

6 (2) in paragraph (2), by adding after the period
7 at the end the following: “Physical or mental condi-
8 tions caused in part or in whole by an employer’s
9 personnel actions shall not be considered an injury
10 or disease compensable under this Act. Physical or
11 mental conditions caused in part or in whole by an
12 employer’s personnel action may only be compen-
13 sable under applicable State or Federal employment
14 laws other than workers’ compensation laws.”;

15 (3) in paragraph (3)(A)—

16 (A) by striking “employed exclusively to
17 perform” and inserting “primarily performing”;
18 and

19 (B) by inserting “on the day of the injury”
20 before the semicolon at the end;

21 (4) in paragraph (13), by inserting before the
22 period at the end the following: “, or an incentive or
23 1-time payment, severance pay, a settlement of an
24 employment law claim, a bonus that is not guaran-
25 teed, container royalties, stock, or stock options”;

1 (5) in paragraph (14), by striking “(19)” and
2 inserting “(18)”;

3 (6) by redesignating paragraphs (21) and (22)
4 as paragraphs (26) and (27), respectively; and

5 (7) by inserting after paragraph (20) the fol-
6 lowing:

7 “(21) The term ‘participating network’ means a
8 network of physicians and other health care pro-
9 viders that has been designated by a carrier to pro-
10 vide medical services to an employee under this Act.

11 “(22) The term ‘health care panel’ means 3 or
12 more physicians or other health care providers in a
13 common geographic region who practice in the same
14 or similar medical specialty, which panel is des-
15 ignated by a carrier to provide medical services to an
16 employee under this Act.

17 “(23) The term ‘nationally recognized evidence-
18 based treatment standards’ means the treatment
19 standards in the Occupational Medicine Practice
20 Guidelines published by the American College of Oc-
21 cupational and Environmental Medicine. Any subse-
22 quent revision of these standards by the American
23 College of Occupational and Environmental Medicine
24 shall be effective with respect to all treatment deci-
25 sions under this Act on the date that is 90 days

1 after the promulgation of the revision, unless the
2 Secretary determines that the revision is inconsistent
3 with this Act's policy of ensuring treatment pursu-
4 ant to evidence-based standards.

5 “(24) The term ‘objective relevant medical find-
6 ings’ means those objective findings that correlate to
7 the subjective complaints of an injured employee and
8 are confirmed by physical examination findings or
9 diagnostic testing.

10 “(25) The term ‘fraud’ means the act of know-
11 ingly, and with intent to defraud—

12 “(A) providing material false information
13 that could result in the obtaining or denying, in
14 whole or in part, of compensation under this
15 Act; or

16 “(B) failing to provide material informa-
17 tion that could result in the obtaining or deny-
18 ing, in whole or in part, of compensation under
19 this Act.

20 “(26) The term ‘major contributing cause’,
21 when used with respect to an injury, means the
22 cause constituting greater than 50 percent of the
23 total of all causes.

24 “(27) The term ‘standard premium’ means the
25 product of an employer’s payroll and the filed man-

1 ual rate applicable to the employer multiplied by the
2 employer’s current experience modification factor, if
3 applicable. The calculation may not include any de-
4 ductible credit. For policies written using retrospec-
5 tive rating, the standard premium must be cal-
6 culated in accordance with this definition regardless
7 of the actual retrospective premium calculation.

8 “(28) The term ‘filed manual rate’ means the
9 premium rate for each unit of exposure, as a func-
10 tion of the applicable basis of premium, for the occu-
11 pational classes assigned to the employer’s business,
12 filed pursuant to the insurance laws of the applicable
13 jurisdiction.

14 “(29) The term ‘experience modification factor’
15 means the adjustment to a policyholder’s premium
16 rate for a specific exposure period, resulting from a
17 rating procedure utilizing the past insurance experi-
18 ence of the individual policyholder to forecast future
19 losses by measuring the policyholder’s loss experi-
20 ence against the loss experience of policyholders in
21 the same classification to produce a prospective pre-
22 mium credit, debit, or unity modification.”.

23 **SEC. 4. COVERAGE.**

24 Section 3 (20 U.S.C. 903) is amended—

25 (1) in subsection (c), by striking “solely”;

1 (2) by redesignating subsection (e) as sub-
2 section (f);

3 (3) by inserting after subsection (d) the fol-
4 lowing:

5 “(e) COMPENSATION LIMITATION.—No compensation
6 shall be payable to an employee for dentures, eyeglasses,
7 hearing aids, a prosthetic device, or an artificial limb un-
8 less the dentures, eyeglasses, hearing aid, prosthetic de-
9 vice, or artificial limb—

10 “(1) is part of the medical treatment for a dis-
11 ability compensated under section 8; or

12 “(2) was damaged as part of, or in concert
13 with, an accident that resulted in a traumatic injury
14 to the employee.”; and

15 (4) in subsection (f) (as redesignated by para-
16 graph (2)), by inserting “this Act,” after “pursuant
17 to”.

18 **SEC. 5. LIABILITY FOR COMPENSATION.**

19 Section 4 (33 U.S.C. 904) is amended to read as fol-
20 lows:

21 **“SEC. 4. LIABILITY FOR COMPENSATION.**

22 “(a) IN GENERAL.—Every employer shall be liable
23 for, and shall secure the payment to the employer’s em-
24 ployees of, the compensation payable under sections 7, 8,
25 and 9.

1 “(b) PAYMENT IRRESPECTIVE OF FAULT.—Com-
2 pensation shall be payable irrespective of fault as a cause
3 for the injury.

4 “(c) PROPORTIONAL PAYMENT.—

5 “(1) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided in sub-
6 section (e) and section 8(a)(13), in making com-
7 pensation determinations under this Act, compensa-
8 tion shall be reduced by an amount attributable to
9 the percentage of—

10 “(A) the disability rating for a prior per-
11 manent injury; and

12 “(B) the anatomical physical impairment
13 that resulted from nonoccupational factors
14 (such as aging, prior or subsequent anatomical
15 physical impairment, or personal habits, includ-
16 ing smoking and alcohol use).

17 “(2) LIMITATION.—In no case shall compensa-
18 tion be calculated under this Act by deducting the
19 dollar amount of compensation paid or payable for
20 a prior injury described in paragraph (1).

21 “(3) DETERMINATIONS.—Determination under
22 this subsection shall be based upon the findings of
23 the treating physician upon a review of the available
24 records. The treating physician designated in section
25 7 shall make a determination under this paragraph

1 by finding what percentage of the employee's dis-
2 ability was a result of an injury arising out of and
3 occurring in the course of the employment involved
4 and what percentage of such disability was the re-
5 sult of prior injury and other nonoccupational fac-
6 tors.

7 “(d) BORROWED EMPLOYEES.—

8 “(1) IN GENERAL.—Subject to paragraph (2),
9 in the case of the injury or death of an employee
10 who is working for another employer at the direction
11 of the employee's primary employer, all employers of
12 the employee at the time of the injury shall be treat-
13 ed as a single employer for purposes of this Act, in-
14 cluding with respect to the obligation to pay com-
15 pensation under this section and the exclusiveness of
16 the remedy under section 5.

17 “(2) INDEMNIFICATION AGREEMENT.—Nothing
18 in paragraph (1) shall be construed to supercede an
19 express contractual indemnification agreement be-
20 tween the borrowing and lending employer.

21 “(e) LAST EMPLOYER DOCTRINE; INTERVENING
22 NONMARITIME EMPLOYMENT; NONCONTRIBUTING EXPO-
23 SURE.—

24 “(1) LAST EMPLOYER DOCTRINE.—

1 “(A) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided in
2 section 8(a)(13), if more than 1 employer or
3 employment exposure contributed to the injury
4 or death of an employee, the last employer to
5 have contributed to the injury or death of the
6 employee shall be responsible for benefits under
7 this Act.

8 “(B) RIGHTS AND DEFENSES.—The em-
9 ployer responsible for the benefits under this
10 section shall retain all rights and defenses that
11 any employer who contributed to the injury or
12 death would otherwise have had. The employee
13 shall retain all burdens of production, burdens
14 of persuasion, and presumptions that the em-
15 ployee would otherwise have had.

16 “(2) INTERVENING EMPLOYMENT.—If the last
17 employment exposure that contributed to an injury
18 or death was the result of employment that was not
19 covered under this Act, no benefits shall be payable
20 under this Act for the injury or death.

21 “(3) NONCONTRIBUTING EMPLOYMENT EXPO-
22 SURE.—For purposes of this Act, employment expo-
23 sure did not contribute to the injury or death of an
24 employee if—

1 “(A) the medical condition that resulted in
2 the injury or death was diagnosed before em-
3 ployment commenced; or

4 “(B) the employer did not expose the em-
5 ployee to conditions capable of causing or con-
6 tributing to the injury or death.”.

7 **SEC. 6. EXCLUSIVENESS OF LIABILITY.**

8 Section 5 (33 U.S.C. 905) is amended—

9 (1) in subsection (a)—

10 (A) in the first sentence, by striking “or in
11 admiralty” and inserting “in admiralty, or oth-
12 erwise,”; and

13 (B) by striking the third sentence; and

14 (2) by adding at the end the following:

15 “(d) PREEMPTION.—

16 “(1) STATE LAW PREEMPTION.—Any State law
17 that provides additional or alternative remedies for
18 an injured employee, the employee’s legal represent-
19 ative, the employee’s husband or wife, parents, de-
20 pendents, or next of kin, or anyone otherwise enti-
21 tled to recover from such employer on account of
22 such injury or death against the employer, at law or
23 in admiralty, or otherwise, is expressly preempted
24 when the carrier—

1 “(A) has voluntarily paid compensation
2 under this Act;

3 “(B) has settled a claim for compensation
4 under this Act;

5 “(C) is contesting a claim for compensa-
6 tion under this Act;

7 “(D) is appealing an order under this Act;

8 “(E) is subject to an order under this Act;

9 or

10 “(F) has notified the Secretary that a
11 claim for compensation should have been
12 brought under this Act.

13 “(2) STATE JURISDICTION PREEMPTION.—Any
14 State proceeding (including a judicial or administra-
15 tive proceeding) involving the claims of an injured
16 employee, the employee’s legal representative, hus-
17 band or wife, parents, dependents, or next of kin, or
18 anyone otherwise entitled to recover damages from
19 such employer at law or in admiralty or otherwise on
20 account of such injury or death, shall be preempted
21 when the carrier has taken an action described in
22 subparagraphs (A) through (F) of paragraph (1).

23 “(3) ADMINISTRATIVE STAY.—

24 “(A) PROCESS FOR STAY.—In order to ef-
25 fectuate this subsection and protect the admi-

1 ralty and maritime jurisdiction of the Federal
2 Government, an employer who is party to a
3 State proceeding may notify the Secretary of
4 the proceeding and any reason why this sub-
5 section preempts the State proceeding. Within
6 10 days after receiving the notification, the Sec-
7 retary shall issue an administrative stay order
8 to the State that shall remain in effect until a
9 final determination has been made by the Sec-
10 retary that this subsection does not preempt the
11 State proceeding.

12 “(B) INJUNCTION.—If a State does not
13 comply with a stay order issued by the Sec-
14 retary under subparagraph (A), within 10 days
15 after the State’s refusal to comply, the Sec-
16 retary shall seek, in a Federal district court, an
17 injunction against further State proceedings re-
18 garding the claim that may be preempted by
19 this subsection.

20 “(C) TIMELY RESPONSE.—If the Secretary
21 does not fulfill the Secretary’s obligations under
22 this paragraph in a timely manner, the em-
23 ployer may seek an order in a Federal district
24 court compelling the Secretary to so act.

1 “(e) GOVERNMENT RESPONSIBILITY.—The exclusive
2 remedy for any person injured, in whole or in part, by
3 exposure to ionizing or nonionizing radiation from equip-
4 ment required to be used by Federal law or regulation or
5 owned by a Federal Government entity shall be found
6 under the Federal Tort Claims Act, and this Act shall not
7 apply to any injury or death resulting from such expo-
8 sure.”.

9 **SEC. 7. MEDICAL SERVICES AND SUPPLIES.**

10 Section 7 (33 U.S.C. 907) is amended—

11 (1) in subsection (a)—

12 (A) by striking “(a)” and inserting
13 “(a)(1)”;

14 (B) by striking “furnish such” and insert-
15 ing “furnish medical services and supplies, in-
16 cluding”; and

17 (C) by adding at the end the following:

18 “(2) Notwithstanding any other provision of this Act,
19 in the case where nationally recognized evidence-based
20 treatment standards apply to the employee’s medical con-
21 dition, the medical treatment shall include only the care
22 provided pursuant to such treatment standards.”;

23 (2) by striking subsection (i);

24 (3) by redesignating subsections (c) through
25 (e), (f) through (h), (j), and (k), as subsections (d)

1 through (f), (h) through (j), (k), and (l), respec-
2 tively;

3 (4) by striking subsection (b) and inserting the
4 following:

5 “(b) PHYSICIAN SELECTION.—

6 “(1) CARRIER USING PARTICIPATING NET-
7 WORKS OR HEALTH CARE PANELS.—

8 “(A) IN GENERAL.—A carrier may des-
9 ignate 1 or more participating networks or 1 or
10 more health care panels, or both, for purposes
11 of providing medical services to employees
12 under this Act. An injured employee served by
13 a carrier that has designated an approved par-
14 ticipating network under subparagraph (C) or a
15 health care panel under subparagraph (D) shall
16 not be entitled to recover any amount expended
17 by the employee for medical services and sup-
18 plies unless the employee has secured such med-
19 ical services and supplies through a physician or
20 other health care provider that is a participant
21 in such network or panel, respectively.

22 “(B) GEOGRAPHIC EXCEPTION.—Subpara-
23 graph (A) shall not apply if the injured em-
24 ployee can demonstrate that the carrier’s par-
25 ticipating network or health care panel does not

1 include a physician capable of treating the em-
2 ployee within 100 miles of the employee's resi-
3 dence.

4 “(C) PARTICIPATING NETWORKS.—

5 “(i) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary
6 shall establish a process for approving par-
7 ticipating networks, in accordance with
8 clause (ii), that shall include an automatic
9 approval for a participating network that
10 has been authorized by a State workers’
11 compensation program.

12 “(ii) QUALIFICATIONS.—In order to
13 be approved under clause (i), a partici-
14 pating network shall establish an internal
15 review process to address any disputes
16 with respect to the provision of medical
17 care or treatment to an employee. Such
18 process shall conform to the utilization re-
19 view standards for workers’ compensation
20 described in subsection (m).

21 “(D) DESIGNATION OF HEALTH CARE PAN-
22 ELS.—To designate a health care panel for pur-
23 poses of this subsection, a carrier shall submit
24 the names of the health care panel participants
25 to the Secretary.

1 “(2) CARRIER NOT USING PANELS OR NET-
2 WORKS.—If a carrier has not provided medical serv-
3 ices or supplies in accordance with paragraph (1),
4 the employee shall have the right to choose an at-
5 tending physician authorized by the Secretary to
6 provide medical care under this Act as hereinafter
7 provided. If, due to the nature of the injury, the em-
8 ployee is unable to select a physician and the nature
9 of the injury requires immediate medical treatment
10 and care, the employer shall select a physician for
11 the employee.

12 “(c) SUPERVISION AND CHANGE OF PHYSICIANS.—
13 The Secretary, consistent with the evidence-based stand-
14 ards provided for under subsection (a)(2)—

15 “(1) shall actively supervise the medical care
16 rendered to injured employees;

17 “(2) shall require periodic reports as to the
18 medical care being rendered to injured employees;

19 “(3) shall have authority to determine the ne-
20 cessity, character, and sufficiency of any medical aid
21 furnished or to be furnished;

22 “(4) may, on the Secretary’s own initiative or
23 at the request of the employer, order a change of
24 physicians or hospitals when, in the Secretary’s
25 judgment, such change is desirable or necessary in

1 the interest of the employee or where the charges ex-
2 ceed those prevailing within the community for the
3 same or similar services or exceed the provider's cus-
4 tomary charges; and

5 “(5) shall permit, in accordance with regula-
6 tions promulgated by the Secretary, the change of
7 physicians at the request of an employee (such
8 change may be approved not more frequently than
9 twice annually unless otherwise authorized by the
10 carrier).”;

11 (5) in subsection (d) (as redesignated by para-
12 graph (3))—

13 (A) in paragraph (1)(B), by striking “(j)”
14 and inserting “(k)”; and

15 (B) in paragraph (2), by striking “by an
16 employee”;

17 (6) in subsection (e)(4) (as redesignated by
18 paragraph (3))—

19 (A) by striking “employer” and inserting
20 “employer or designated by the Secretary”; and

21 (B) by striking “may” and inserting
22 “shall”;

23 (7) in subsection (f) (as redesignated by para-
24 graph (3)), by striking the third sentence;

1 (8) by inserting after subsection (f) (as redesignig-
2 nated by paragraph (3)) the following:

3 “(g) USE OF MEDICAL RECORDS.—When there is the
4 need for any review, hearing, investigation, or other pro-
5 ceeding authorized or directed under this section relating
6 to medical care or treatment, the finder of fact shall rely
7 on the medical record and the findings of qualified medical
8 professionals that are based on the medical record.”; and

9 (9) by adding at the end the following:

10 “(m) APPLICABILITY OF UTILIZATION REVIEW
11 STANDARDS.—Notwithstanding any other provision of
12 this Act, any utilization review, whether within a partici-
13 pating network, health care panel, or otherwise, carried
14 out under this Act shall be conducted pursuant to the uti-
15 lization review standards applicable to workers’ compensa-
16 tion promulgated by URAC, as such standards were in
17 effect on the date of enactment of the Longshore and Har-
18 bor Workers’ Compensation Act Amendments of 2006.
19 Any subsequent revision of the standards shall be effec-
20 tive, with respect to all utilization review determinations
21 under this Act, on the date that is 90 days after the pro-
22 mulgation of the revised standards, unless the Secretary
23 determines that the revised standards are inconsistent
24 with this Act’s policy of ensuring utilization review in ac-
25 cordance with nationally recognized standards.”.

1 **SEC. 8. COMPENSATION FOR DISABILITY.**

2 (a) COMPENSATION FOR DISABILITY.—Section 8 (33
3 U.S.C. 908) is amended—

4 (1) in subsection (a), by striking “66 $\frac{2}{3}$ per cen-
5 tum of the average weekly wages” and inserting “75
6 percent of the spendable earnings”;

7 (2) in subsection (b), by striking “66 $\frac{2}{3}$ per cen-
8 tum of the average weekly wages” and inserting “75
9 percent of the spendable earnings”;

10 (3) in subsection (c)—

11 (A) in the matter preceding paragraph (1),
12 by striking “66 $\frac{2}{3}$ per centum of the average
13 weekly wages” and inserting “75 percent of the
14 spendable earnings”;

15 (B) by striking paragraph (13) and insert-
16 ing the following:

17 “(13) LOSS OF HEARING.—

18 “(A) COMPENSATION.—

19 “(i) TOTAL LOSS OF HEARING.—

20 “(I) ONE EAR.—The compensa-
21 tion for total loss of hearing in 1 ear
22 shall be 52 weeks.

23 “(II) BOTH EARS.—The com-
24 pensation for total loss of hearing in
25 both ears shall be 200 weeks.

1 “(ii) PARTIAL LOSS OF HEARING.—

2 For the partial loss of hearing in 1 or both
3 ears, compensation shall be paid for a pe-
4 riod proportionate to the degree of the
5 loss, in accordance with clause (i).

6 “(B) MEASUREMENT.—

7 “(i) EMPLOYMENT-RELATED LOSS.—

8 The employer shall pay compensation only
9 for any hearing loss caused by an injury
10 arising out of and in the course of employ-
11 ment with such employer, and shall not be
12 liable for that part of the employee’s hear-
13 ing loss caused by presbycusis, nonoccupa-
14 tional causes, and documented preemploy-
15 ment hearing loss. The percentage of loss
16 caused by those conditions shall be de-
17 ducted from the percentage of the employ-
18 ee’s hearing loss before determining the
19 employer’s liability.

20 “(ii) DETERMINATION OF LOSS.—Ex-

21 cept as provided in clause (iii), determina-
22 tions of loss of hearing shall be made in
23 accordance with the guides for the evalua-
24 tion of permanent impairment, as promul-

1 gated and modified from time to time by
2 the American Medical Association.

3 “(iii) MEASUREMENT.—The measure-
4 ment of presbycusis shall be in accordance
5 with the methodology adopted in section
6 1910.95 of title 29, Code of Federal Regu-
7 lations, appendix F, applied to the applica-
8 ble decibel levels for hearing loss deter-
9 minations as provided in clause (ii).

10 “(iv) AUDIOGRAM STANDARDS.—In
11 determining the amount of hearing loss for
12 purposes of this paragraph, an audiogram
13 that is administered by a licensed or cer-
14 tified technician, an audiologist who is cer-
15 tified, or a physician who is certified in
16 otolaryngology, and is interpreted by an
17 audiologist who is certified or a physician
18 who is certified in otolaryngology, shall
19 prevail over an audiogram that is not per-
20 formed in accordance with these criteria.”;

21 (4) by striking paragraph (21) and inserting
22 the following:

23 “(21) In all other cases in the class of dis-
24 ability, the compensation shall be 75 percent of the
25 difference between the injured employee’s spendable

1 earnings before the injury and the amount of spend-
2 able earnings the employee is able to earn after the
3 injury in the same or another employment, payable
4 during the continuance of partial disability.”;

5 (5) in paragraph (23)—

6 (A) by striking “66²/₃ per centum” and in-
7 serting “75 percent”; and

8 (B) by striking “average weekly wages”
9 each place the term occurs and inserting
10 “spendable earnings”;

11 (6) by striking subsection (e) and inserting the
12 following:

13 “(e) TEMPORARY PARTIAL DISABILITY.—In the case
14 of temporary partial disability resulting in decrease of
15 earning capacity, the compensation shall be 75 percent of
16 the difference between the injured employee’s spendable
17 earnings before the injury and the amount of spendable
18 earnings the employee is able to earn after the injury in
19 the same or another employment, to be paid during the
20 continuance of such disability, but shall not be paid for
21 a period exceeding 5 years.”;

22 (7) in subsection (f), by adding at the end the
23 following:

24 “(4) LIMITATION.—After the date of enactment of
25 the Longshore and Harbor Workers’ Compensation Act

1 Amendments of 2006, no order for relief under this sub-
2 section shall be entered except—

3 “(A) an order for modification of benefits for
4 which an order has been entered prior to such date
5 of enactment; or

6 “(B) an order for relief, in respect of a survivor
7 of an employee, being paid from the special fund at
8 the date of death.”;

9 (8) in subsection (j)(1), by striking “a disabled
10 employee” and inserting “an employee”; and

11 (9) by adding at the end the following:

12 “(k) MULTIPLE-INJURY MAXIMUM.—Notwith-
13 standing any other provision of this Act, when an em-
14 ployee qualifies for compensation for disability caused by
15 2 or more injuries, in no case shall the amount of com-
16 pensation payable for all such injuries when combined ex-
17 ceed the lesser of—

18 “(1) 75 percent of spendable earnings at the
19 time of the last injury; or

20 “(2) the maximum rate of compensation, as de-
21 termined under section 6(b), at the time of the last
22 injury.”.

23 (b) NONAPPLICABILITY UNTIL PUBLICATION OF
24 TABLE.—Not later than 90 days after the date of enact-
25 ment of this Act, the Secretary of Labor shall promulgate

1 regulations and publish a table of compensation imple-
2 menting the amendments made by this section. A carrier
3 shall not be required to adjust payments made by the car-
4 rier under the Longshore and Harbor Workers' Com-
5 pensation Act to comply with the amendments made by
6 this section until such table is published.

7 **SEC. 9. COMPENSATION FOR DEATH.**

8 (a) COMPENSATION FOR DEATH.—Section 9 (33
9 U.S.C. 909) is amended—

10 (1) in subsection (a), by striking “\$3,000” and
11 inserting “\$7,500”;

12 (2) by redesignating subsections (e) through (g)
13 as subsections (f) through (h), respectively;

14 (3) by striking subsections (b) through (d) and
15 inserting the following:

16 “(b) WIDOW OR WIDOWER WITHOUT CHILDREN.—

17 If there be a widow or widower and no surviving child of
18 the deceased, the widow or widower shall receive 75 per-
19 cent of the spendable earnings of the deceased during wid-
20 owhood or widowerhood, except that upon remarriage of
21 the widow or widower, the widow or widower shall receive
22 2 years' worth of such payments in a lump sum.

23 “(c) WIDOW OR WIDOWER WITH CHILDREN.—If

24 there be a widow or widower and 1 or more surviving chil-
25 dren of the deceased—

1 “(1) the widow or widower shall receive 50 per-
2 cent of the spendable earnings of the deceased dur-
3 ing widowhood or widowerhood, except that upon re-
4 marriage of the widow or widower, the widow or wid-
5 ower shall receive 2 years’ worth of such payments
6 in a lump sum; and

7 “(2) each child of the deceased shall receive a
8 pro rata share of 25 percent of the spendable earn-
9 ings of the deceased.

10 “(d) SURVIVING CHILDREN.—If there be 1 or more
11 surviving children of the deceased, but no widow or wid-
12 ower, then each child shall receive a pro rata share of 75
13 percent of the spendable earnings of the deceased.

14 “(e) NO WIDOW, WIDOWER, OR SURVIVING CHILD.—
15 If there be no widow or widower or surviving child, then
16 for the support of grandchildren, brothers and sisters, par-
17 ents, and grandparents, if dependent upon the deceased
18 at the time of the injury, and any other persons who sat-
19 isfy the definition of the term ‘dependent’ in section 152
20 of title 26 of the United States Code, but are not otherwise
21 eligible under this section, 25 percent of spendable earn-
22 ings for the support of each such person during such de-
23 pendency, but in no case shall the aggregate amount pay-
24 able under this subsection exceed 75 percent of the spend-
25 able earnings of the deceased.”; and

1 (4) by adding at the end the following:

2 “(i) APPOINTMENT OF GUARDIAN.—The deputy com-
3 missioner having jurisdiction over a claim for compensa-
4 tion under this section shall have discretion to require the
5 appointment of a guardian for the purpose of receiving
6 the compensation of a minor child. In the absence of such
7 a requirement, the appointment of a guardian for such
8 purpose shall not be necessary.”.

9 (b) NONAPPLICABILITY UNTIL PUBLICATION OF
10 TABLE.—Not later than 90 days after the date of enact-
11 ment of this Act, the Secretary of Labor shall promulgate
12 regulations and publish a table of compensation imple-
13 menting the amendments made by this section. A carrier
14 shall not be required to adjust payments made under the
15 Longshore and Harbor Workers’ Compensation Act to
16 comply with the amendments made by this section until
17 such table is published.

18 **SEC. 10. DETERMINATION OF PAY.**

19 (a) DETERMINATION OF PAY.—Section 10 (33
20 U.S.C. 910) is amended—

21 (1) in the matter preceding subsection (a)—

22 (A) by striking “average weekly wage” and
23 inserting “spendable earnings”; and

24 (B) by inserting “as provided in sections 8
25 and 9” after “compensation”;

1 (2) by striking subsections (a) through (e) and
2 inserting the following:

3 “(a) AVERAGE WEEKLY WAGE CALCULATION.—

4 “(1) IN GENERAL.—If the injured employee was
5 available to work, as determined under paragraph
6 (3), in 40 of the 52 weeks immediately preceding the
7 injury, or if the employee was employed in a sea-
8 sonal position when the injury occurred, the average
9 weekly wage shall be calculated by dividing the ac-
10 tual earnings of the employee for the previous 52
11 weeks by 52.

12 “(2) RULE FOR CERTAIN INDIVIDUALS.—If the
13 injured employee was available for work, as deter-
14 mined under paragraph (3), in less than 40 of the
15 52 weeks immediately preceding the injury, the aver-
16 age weekly wage shall be based on the average week-
17 ly wage of other employees in the same classifica-
18 tion, who worked in the same job, with the same se-
19 niority, and at the same location for the 52 weeks
20 immediately preceding the injury.

21 “(3) AVAILABILITY TO WORK.—An injured em-
22 ployee shall be considered available to work in a
23 week if the injured employee—

24 “(A) actually worked not less than 1 day
25 during the week;

1 “(B) voluntarily withdrew from the work-
2 force for the week;

3 “(C) was not offered work during a week
4 for reasons of seniority; or

5 “(D) was unable to work during a week for
6 any reason other than a work-related injury.

7 “(4) SPECIAL METHOD OF CALCULATION.—If
8 either of the methods of arriving at the average
9 weekly wages of the injured employee described in
10 paragraphs (1) and (2) cannot reasonably and fairly
11 be applied, the average weekly wages shall be such
12 sum as, having regard to the previous earnings of
13 the injured employee in the employment in which the
14 employee was working at the time of the injury, and
15 of other employees of the same or most similar class
16 working in the same or most similar employment in
17 the same or neighboring locality, or other employ-
18 ment of such employee, including the reasonable
19 value of the services of the employee if engaged in
20 self-employment, shall reasonably represent the an-
21 nual earning capacity of the injured employee, di-
22 vided by 52.

23 “(5) MINOR EMPLOYEES.—If it is established
24 that the injured employee was a minor when injured,
25 and that under normal conditions the employee’s

1 wages should be expected to increase during the pe-
2 riod of disability, the fact may be considered in ar-
3 riving at the employee's average weekly wages.

4 “(b) RETIRED EMPLOYEES.—

5 “(1) EMPLOYEES INJURED WITHIN THE FIRST
6 YEAR OF RETIREMENT.—With respect to any claim
7 based on a death or disability due to an occupational
8 disease for which the time of injury (as determined
9 under subsection (g)) occurs within the first year
10 after the employee has retired, the average weekly
11 wage shall be calculated in accordance with sub-
12 section (a).

13 “(2) EMPLOYEES INJURED AFTER THE FIRST
14 YEAR OF RETIREMENT.—With respect to any claim
15 based on a death or disability due to an occupational
16 disease for which the time of injury (as determined
17 under subsection (g)) occurs more than 1 year after
18 the employee has retired, the average weekly wage
19 shall be deemed to be the national average weekly
20 wage (as determined by the Secretary pursuant to
21 section 6(b)) applicable at the time of the injury.

22 “(c) SPENDABLE EARNINGS.—

23 “(1) METHOD OF CALCULATION.—The spend-
24 able earnings of an employee shall be the average
25 weekly wage, as calculated under subsection (a), re-

1 duced by subtracting the Federal, State, and local
2 taxes that would have been withheld based on stand-
3 ard deductions and on the domicile of the employee
4 at the time of the injury, and reduced by subtracting
5 the tax that would have been withheld under section
6 3101 of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986.

7 “(2) ANNUAL TABLE.—The Secretary shall an-
8 nually publish a table for calculating spendable earn-
9 ings under this subsection.”; and

10 (3) by redesignating subsections (f) through (i)
11 as subsections (d) through (g), respectively.

12 (b) NONAPPLICABILITY UNTIL PUBLICATION OF
13 TABLE.—Not later than 90 days after the date of enact-
14 ment of this Act, the Secretary of Labor shall promulgate
15 regulations and publish a table of average weekly wages,
16 and the associated amount of spendable earnings, imple-
17 menting the amendments made by this section. A carrier
18 shall not be required to adjust payments made under the
19 Longshore and Harbor Workers’ Compensation Act to
20 comply with the amendments made by this section until
21 such table is published.

22 **SEC. 11. NOTICE OF INJURY OR DEATH.**

23 Section 12 (33 U.S.C. 912) is amended—

24 (1) by striking subsection (a) and inserting the
25 following:

1 “(a) TIMING AND RECIPIENTS OF NOTICE.—

2 “(1) TRAUMATIC INJURY OR DEATH.—Notice of
3 a traumatic injury or death in respect of which com-
4 pensation is payable under this Act shall be given
5 not later than 30 days after the date of the trauma,
6 or 30 days after the employee or beneficiary is aware
7 that the trauma resulted in injury or death (or in
8 the exercise of reasonable diligence or by reason of
9 medical advice should have been aware) of a rela-
10 tionship among the trauma, the injury or death, and
11 the employment, but in no case shall the notice be
12 given more than 1 year after the trauma occurs.

13 “(2) NON-TRAUMATIC INJURY OR DEATH RE-
14 SULTING FROM INJURY.—Except as provided in
15 paragraph (3), in the case of a non-traumatic injury
16 that does not immediately result in a disability or
17 death, and in the case of death from a non-trau-
18 matic injury, such notice shall be given not later
19 than 1 year after the employee or claimant becomes
20 aware (or in the exercise of reasonable diligence or
21 by reason of medical advice should have been aware)
22 of the relationship between the non-traumatic injury
23 or death and employment, provided that in no case
24 shall the notice be given more than 1 year after the

1 diagnosis of a non-traumatic injury or a death re-
2 sulting from such injury.

3 “(3) HEARING LOSS.—Notice of hearing loss
4 shall be given not later than the date specified in
5 paragraph (2) or 1 year after the last date of em-
6 ployment, whichever occurs first.

7 “(4) INDIVIDUALS RECEIVING NOTICE.—Notice
8 under this subsection shall be given—

9 “(A) to the deputy commissioner in the
10 compensation district in which the injury or
11 death occurred; and

12 “(B) to the employer.”;

13 (2) in subsection (b), by adding at the end the
14 following: “In order to facilitate prompt settlement
15 of cases, notice of an injury shall also include an op-
16 portunity for the employer to have the employee an-
17 swer questions under oath, so that the employer may
18 determine if and how much compensation should be
19 paid. The opportunity for questioning shall occur at
20 a reasonable time and place that provides the em-
21 ployee with sufficient opportunity to obtain legal
22 counsel before such questioning, should the employee
23 so choose. Failure by an employee to be available for
24 such questioning (unless waived by the employer in
25 writing), or failure to fully and truthfully answer

1 material questions, shall be considered a failure to
2 give notice under this Act.”; and

3 (3) by striking subsection (d) and inserting the
4 following:

5 “(d) FAILURE TO GIVE NOTICE.—Failure to give
6 timely notice in accordance with this section shall not bar
7 any claim for compensation under this Act if—

8 “(1)(A) the employer (or the employer’s agent
9 or other responsible official designated by the em-
10 ployer pursuant to subsection (c)) or the carrier had
11 knowledge of the injury or death;

12 “(B) the deputy commissioner determines that
13 the employer or carrier has not been prejudiced by
14 failure to give such notice; or

15 “(C) the deputy commissioner excuses such fail-
16 ure on the ground that—

17 “(i) notice, while not given to a responsible
18 official designated by the employer pursuant to
19 subsection (c), was given to an official of the
20 employer or the employer’s insurance carrier,
21 and the employer or carrier was not prejudiced
22 due to the failure to provide notice to a respon-
23 sible official designated by the employer pursu-
24 ant to subsection (c); or

1 “(ii) for some satisfactory reason such no-
2 tice could not be given;

3 “(2) objection to such failure is raised before
4 the deputy commissioner at the first hearing of a
5 claim for compensation in respect of such injury or
6 death; and

7 “(3) notice that meets the requirements of this
8 section is given not more than 1 year after the in-
9 jury or death.”.

10 **SEC. 12. FILING OF CLAIMS.**

11 Section 13 (33 U.S.C. 913) is amended—

12 (1) by striking subsection (a) and inserting the
13 following:

14 “(a) **TIME TO FILE.**—The right to compensation for
15 disability or death under this Act shall be barred unless
16 a claim therefore is filed not later than 90 days after pro-
17 viding notice under Section 12. If payment of compensa-
18 tion has been made without an award on account of such
19 injury or death, a claim may be filed not later than 90
20 days after the date of the last payment. Such claim shall
21 be filed with the deputy commissioner in the compensation
22 district in which such injury or death occurred.”;

23 (2) by striking subsection (b);

24 (3) by redesignating subsections (c) and (d) as
25 subsections (b) and (c), respectively; and

1 “(b) LIMITATION.—Benefits due or payable under
 2 this Act shall be subject to withholding and any other legal
 3 process in the same form and manner, and to the same
 4 extent, as withholding and other legal processes apply
 5 under the Employment Retirement Income Security Act
 6 of 1974 (29 U.S.C. 1056).”.

7 **SEC. 15. PRESUMPTIONS, BURDENS, AND RULES OF EVI-**
 8 **DENCE.**

9 Section 20 (33 U.S.C. 920) is amended to read as
 10 follows:

11 **“SEC. 20. PRESUMPTIONS, BURDENS, AND RULES OF EVI-**
 12 **DENCE.**

13 “(a) PRESUMPTIONS.—

14 “(1) REBUTTABLE PRESUMPTIONS.—In any
 15 proceeding for the enforcement of a claim for com-
 16 pensation under this Act, it shall be a rebuttable
 17 presumption—

18 “(A) that the claim comes within the provi-
 19 sions of this Act;

20 “(B) that sufficient notice of such claim
 21 has been given;

22 “(C) that the injury was not occasioned
 23 solely by the intoxication of the injured em-
 24 ployee; and

1 “(D) that the injury was not occasioned by
2 the willful intention of the injured employee to
3 injure or kill the employee or another.

4 “(2) REBUTTING PRESUMPTIONS.—A presump-
5 tion described in paragraph (1) shall not be consid-
6 ered evidence once rebutted. Once a presumption has
7 been rebutted, the burden of production of evidence
8 and burden of persuasion shall be governed by sec-
9 tion 556(d) of title 5, United States Code.

10 “(3) REBUTTING NONINTOXICATION PRESUMP-
11 TION.—The presumption described in paragraph
12 (1)(C) shall be rebutted by evidence that the em-
13 ployee—

14 “(A) refused a drug or alcohol test;

15 “(B) did not make himself available for a
16 drug or alcohol test;

17 “(C) tested positive for illegal drugs; or

18 “(D) tested as having a blood alcohol con-
19 centration level above the permitted driving
20 limit as established by the State where the in-
21 jury occurred.

22 “(4) EXCLUSION OF OTHER PRESUMPTIONS.—
23 No other presumptions shall be authorized under
24 this Act.

25 “(b) FALSE STATEMENTS.—

1 “(1) AFFIRMATIVE AND COMPLETE DE-
2 FENSE.—It shall be an affirmative and complete de-
3 fense to any employee claim under this Act that the
4 employee or employee’s agent, knowingly made a
5 false statement that is material to obtaining a ben-
6 efit or payment.

7 “(2) CREDIBILITY.—If any individual know-
8 ingly makes a false statement, whether in writing or
9 under oath, such false statement shall go to the
10 credibility of the individual on all other issues.

11 “(c) RULES OF EVIDENCE.—

12 “(1) EVIDENCE OF INJURY.—With respect to
13 proof of injury for any claim for compensation under
14 this Act—

15 “(A) the injury, its occupational cause, and
16 any resulting manifestations or disability must
17 be proven to a reasonable degree of medical cer-
18 tainty, based on objective relevant medical find-
19 ings;

20 “(B) notwithstanding section 4(c) or sec-
21 tion 8(c)(13)(B), the employment exposure or
22 accident shall be the major contributing cause
23 of any injury;

24 “(C) a causal relationship between a com-
25 pensable accident or injury, and conditions that

1 are not readily observable, shall be by medical
2 evidence only, as proven by physical examina-
3 tion findings or diagnostic testing;

4 “(D) the fact that the injury was the
5 major contributing cause shall be proven by
6 medical evidence only;

7 “(E) in cases involving occupational dis-
8 ease or repetitive exposure, both causation and
9 sufficient exposure to support causation shall be
10 proven by clear and convincing evidence; and

11 “(F) pain or other subjective complaints
12 alone, in the absence of objective relevant med-
13 ical findings, is not compensable.

14 “(2) JUNK SCIENCE.—

15 “(A) EXPERT TESTIMONY.—With respect
16 to a claim under this Act, expert testimony
17 shall not be considered if it does not meet the
18 requirements of Rule 702 of the Federal Rules
19 of Evidence.

20 “(B) MEDICAL OPINION.—In order to be
21 considered with respect to a claim under this
22 Act, a medical opinion shall be based on not
23 less than 1 peer-reviewed study that—

24 “(i) has been published in a major
25 medical journal; and

1 “(ii) is accepted by the majority of the
2 scientific community.”.

3 **SEC. 16. REVIEW OF COMPENSATION ORDERS.**

4 Section 21 (33 U.S.C. 921) is amended—

5 (1) in subsection (b)—

6 (A) in paragraph (3)—

7 (i) in the fourth sentence, by striking
8 “the amounts required by an award shall
9 not” and inserting “disputed amounts re-
10 quired by an award shall”; and

11 (ii) by striking the fifth sentence;

12 (B) in paragraph (4), by adding at the end
13 the following: “An employee may request that
14 the Board hold an expedited hearing with re-
15 spect to an appeal under this subsection.”; and

16 (C) by adding at the end the following:

17 “(6) TIMING FOR DECISIONS.—

18 “(A) ONE-YEAR APPEAL PERIOD.—If the
19 Board fails to resolve an appeal during the 1-
20 year period following the date on which the ap-
21 peal was filed, the decision that was the basis
22 of the appeal is automatically affirmed and
23 such affirmation shall be considered a final
24 order by the Board.

1 “(B) NINETY-DAY MOTION TO RECON-
2 SIDER PERIOD.—If the Board issues a decision
3 on an appeal during the 1-year period following
4 the date on which the appeal was filed and a
5 timely motion for reconsideration is filed, the
6 Board may consider the motion for reconsider-
7 ation. If the Board fails to rule upon the mo-
8 tion for reconsideration during the 90-day pe-
9 riod following the filing of such motion, the mo-
10 tion for reconsideration shall be deemed de-
11 nied.”; and

12 (2) in subsection (c), by adding at the end the
13 following: “A litigating position of the Secretary
14 shall not be entitled to any deference, unless such
15 position has been expressly adopted by the Secretary
16 as a rule made on the record after opportunity for
17 an agency hearing (pursuant to sections 556 and
18 557 of title 5, United States Code).”.

19 **SEC. 17. MODIFICATION OF COMPENSATION CASES.**

20 Section 22 (33 U.S.C. 922) is amended—

21 (1) by striking “22. Upon” and inserting “22.
22 MODIFICATION OF AWARDS—Upon”;

23 (2) in the last sentence of subsection (a) (as in-
24 serted by paragraph (1)), by striking “modification
25 of settlements.” and inserting “modification of settle-

1 ments, except as provided in subsection (b) or (c).”;
2 and

3 (3) by adding at the end the following:

4 “(b) FRAUD.—Notwithstanding subsection (a), if any
5 payment of compensation has been made as a result of
6 fraud, a carrier may at any time seek an order for imme-
7 diate—

8 “(1) termination or suspension of all future
9 payments; and

10 “(2) full restitution of all amounts paid as a re-
11 sult of the fraud.

12 “(c) OVERPAYMENT.—If a carrier makes a payment
13 under this Act to a person in amounts in excess of the
14 amounts owed, the carrier may seek an order for repay-
15 ment by such person, including a credit against any future
16 payment due under this Act or wages paid to the em-
17 ployee. This subsection shall apply regardless of whether
18 such excess amounts resulted from voluntary payments,
19 a settlement, or an order.”.

20 **SEC. 18. PENALTY FOR MISREPRESENTATION.**

21 Section 31 (33 U.S.C. 31) is amended by adding at
22 the end the following:

23 “(d) REPORTS OF FRAUD.—A carrier shall report
24 credible incidents of fraud to the Secretary for investiga-
25 tion. The Secretary shall report any credible incident of

1 fraud involving more than \$10,000 to the appropriate
2 United States Attorney. In the absence of a finding by
3 the Secretary that a report of fraud under this subsection
4 was made with knowledge that the information was false
5 or was disclosed in reckless disregard of whether it was
6 false, no person reporting fraud under this subsection
7 shall be subject to civil liability for libel, slander, or any
8 other cause of action arising from such report.”.

9 **SEC. 19. SPECIAL FUND.**

10 Section 44 (33 U.S.C. 944) is amended—

11 (1) by redesignating subsections (d) through (j)
12 as subsections (e) through (k), respectively;

13 (2) by striking subsection (c) and inserting the
14 following:

15 “(c) PAYMENTS INTO FUND.—Payments into such
16 fund shall be made as follows:

17 “(1) Whenever the Secretary determines that
18 there is no person entitled under this Act to com-
19 pensation for the death of an employee that would
20 otherwise be compensable under this Act, the appro-
21 priate employer shall pay \$5,000 as compensation
22 for the death of such an employee.

23 “(2) At the beginning of each calendar year,
24 the Secretary shall estimate the probable expenses of
25 the fund during that calendar year and the amount

1 of payments required (and the schedule therefore) to
2 maintain adequate reserves in the fund.

3 “(3) Each self-insurer shall make payments
4 into the fund on a prorated assessment by the Sec-
5 retary determined by—

6 “(A) computing the ratio (expressed as a
7 percent) of—

8 “(i) the self-insurer’s compensation
9 payments under sections 8 and 9 during
10 the preceding calendar year, to

11 “(ii) the total of such payments by all
12 carriers and self-insurers under such sec-
13 tions during the preceding calendar year;

14 “(B) computing the ratio (expressed as a
15 percent) of—

16 “(i) the payments under section 8(f)
17 of this Act during the preceding calendar
18 year that are attributable to the self-in-
19 surer, to

20 “(ii) the total of such payments dur-
21 ing such year attributable to all carriers
22 and self-insurers;

23 “(C) dividing the sum of the percentages
24 computed under subparagraphs (A) and (B) for
25 the self-insurer by 2; and

1 “(D) multiplying the percentage computed
2 under subparagraph (C) by such probable ex-
3 penses of the fund (as determined under para-
4 graph (2)).

5 “(4) Each employer who is not self-insured
6 shall make payments into the fund through a sur-
7 charge based on the standard premium, to be com-
8 puted and collected as follows:

9 “(A) Carriers that are not self-insurers
10 shall report the amount of all standard pre-
11 miums for insurance for the payment of com-
12 pensation under this Act to the Secretary by
13 April 1 of each year.

14 “(B) The Secretary shall compute an
15 amount for each carrier that is not a self-in-
16 surer, using the methodology described in sub-
17 paragraph (3) for self-insurers.

18 “(C) The Secretary shall determine the
19 ratio (expressed as a percent) of the total of the
20 assessments computed for all such carriers
21 under subparagraph (B), to the total amount of
22 the standard premiums for insurance for the
23 payment of compensation under this Act for all
24 carriers during the preceding calendar year.
25 This ratio shall be the premium surcharge rate.

1 “(D) Each such carrier shall collect a
2 share of the assessment from each employer in-
3 sured by the carrier through a premium sur-
4 charge equal to the product of the premium
5 surcharge rate multiplied by the standard pre-
6 mium for the insured employer. The premium
7 surcharge is the amount payable by each in-
8 sured employer to satisfy its obligation to the
9 fund.

10 “(E) Assessments collected as a premium
11 surcharge under this paragraph shall not con-
12 stitute an element of loss for the purpose of es-
13 tablishing rates for workers’ compensation in-
14 surance but, for the purpose of collection, shall
15 be treated as separate costs imposed upon in-
16 sured employers. The total of the assessment
17 imposed by this paragraph shall be stated as a
18 separate cost on an insured employer’s policy
19 (or on a separate document submitted to the in-
20 sured employer) and shall be identified as the
21 ‘workers’ compensation policyholder surcharge’.
22 Each such assessment shall be shown as a per-
23 centage of the total workers’ compensation pol-
24 icyholder premium. The premium surcharge
25 shall be collected at the same time and in the

1 same manner that the premium for the cov-
2 erage is collected. The premium surcharge shall
3 not be considered as part of the premium, but
4 an insurer may cancel a policy for coverage
5 under this Act for the nonpayment of the pre-
6 mium surcharge in accordance with the proce-
7 dures applicable to the nonpayment of the pre-
8 mium.

9 “(F) Each such carrier shall report and
10 remit premium surcharges to the Secretary
11 semiannually on January 1 and July 1 of the
12 calendar year following the year in which the
13 assessment is based, and such surcharges shall
14 be final except for adjustments made as a result
15 of an audit by the Secretary.

16 “(d) NOTIFICATION OF PAYMENT RATES.—The Sec-
17 retary shall notify carriers of the premium surcharge rate
18 to be effective for policies written or renewed on or after
19 the date of enactment of the Longshore and Harbor Work-
20 ers’ Compensation Act Amendments of 2006, and annu-
21 ally thereafter. At the same time as such notification to
22 carriers, the Secretary shall notify each self-insured em-
23 ployer of the amount to be assessed against such employer
24 under this section for the following calendar year.”; and

1 (3) in subsection (i) (as redesignated by para-
2 graph (1)), by adding at the end the following:
3 “Such civil suit for collections shall be brought
4 against the control group of the employer, as such
5 term is defined under section 3(40)(B) of the Em-
6 ployee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974.”.

7 **SEC. 20. CONFORMING AMENDMENTS.**

8 (a) SECTION 7.—The Act (33 U.S.C. 901 et seq.) is
9 amended—

10 (1) in section 7—

11 (A) in subsection (e)(1)(A) (as redesign-
12 ated by section 7(a)(3)), by striking “and (c)”
13 and inserting “and (d)”;

14 (B) in subsection (h) (as redesignated by
15 section 7(a)(3)), by striking “(e)” and inserting
16 “(f)”;

17 (C) in subsection (k)(1) (as redesignated
18 by section 7(a)(3)), by striking “(e)” and in-
19 serting “(d)”;

20 (D) in subsection (l)(2) (as redesignated
21 by section 7(a)(3)), by striking “(d)” and in-
22 serting “(e)”;

23 (2) in section 28(b), by striking “7(e)” and in-
24 serting “7(f)”;

1 (3) in section 31(b)(2)(B), by striking “(j)” and
2 inserting “(k)”; and

3 (4) in section 44(i)(4), by striking “7(e)” and
4 inserting “7(f)”.

5 (b) SECTION 10.—The Act (33 U.S.C. 901 et seq.)
6 is amended—

7 (1) in section 10—

8 (A) in subsection (e) (as redesignated by
9 section 10(3)), by striking “(f)” and inserting
10 “(d)”; and

11 (B) in subsection (f)(3), by striking “(f)
12 and (g)” and inserting “(c) and (d)”;

13 (2) in section 2(10) and section 8(c)(23), by
14 striking “(10)(d)(2)” each place the term appears
15 and inserting “10(b)(2)”; and

16 (3) in section 9(f) (as redesignated by section
17 9(2)), by striking “10(i)” and inserting “10(f)”.

18 (c) SECTION 44.—The Act (33 U.S.C. 901 et seq.)
19 is amended—

20 (1) in section 44(j)(3) (as redesignated by sec-
21 tion 19(1)) + B , by striking “(d)” and inserting
22 “(e)”; and

23 (2) in section 22, by striking “(i)” and insert-
24 ing “(j)”.

1 **SEC. 21. EFFECTIVE DATES.**

2 The amendments made to the Longshore and Harbor
3 Workers' Compensation Act (referred to in this section as
4 "the Act") (33 U.S.C. 901 et seq.) by this Act shall take
5 effect on the date of enactment of this Act, except that—

6 (1) the amendments made to paragraphs (3)(A)
7 and (13) of section 2, subsections (c) and (e) of sec-
8 tion 3, subsections (c), (d), and (e) of section 4, sub-
9 sections (a) and (e) of section 5, section 7(g), sec-
10 tion 13, and subsections (b) and (c) of section 20 of
11 the Act shall apply with respect to any claim under
12 the Act filed on or after the date of enactment of
13 this Act;

14 (2) the amendments made to section 2(25) of
15 the Act shall take effect on the date of enactment
16 of this Act, and shall apply regardless of the date
17 that the fraudulent act occurred;

18 (3) in section 5(d) of the Act—

19 (A) the amendments made to paragraph
20 (1) shall apply with respect to any claim under
21 a Federal or State workers' compensation law
22 filed on or after the date of enactment of this
23 Act; and

24 (B) the amendments made to paragraphs
25 (2) and (3) shall apply with respect to any
26 claim under a Federal or State workers' com-

1 pensation law, and any action under the Mer-
2 chant Marine Act, 1920 (commonly referred to
3 as the “Jones Act”) (46 U.S.C. App.) or in
4 tort, filed on or after the date of enactment of
5 this Act;

6 (4) the amendments made to section 7 (not in-
7 cluding subsection (g)) of the Act shall apply with
8 respect to any medical care delivered, or examination
9 conducted, under the Act on or after the date of en-
10 actment of this Act;

11 (5) the amendments made to sections 8, 9, and
12 10 of the Act shall apply with respect to any claim
13 under the Act filed on or after the date of enactment
14 of this Act, subject to sections 8(b), 9(b), and 10(b)
15 of this Act;

16 (6) the amendments made to section 11 (not in-
17 cluding subsection (a)) of the Act shall apply with
18 respect to any claim under the Act filed on or after
19 the date of enactment of this Act;

20 (7) the amendments made to section 14 of the
21 Act shall apply with respect to any claim for com-
22 pensation under the Act for which the carrier re-
23 ceives notice of the claim for compensation on or
24 after the date of enactment of this Act;

1 (8) the amendments made to section 20(a)(3)
2 of the Act shall apply with respect to any injury cov-
3 ered under the Act that occurs on or after the date
4 of enactment of this Act;

5 (9) the amendments made to section 21(b)(3)
6 of the Act shall apply to any proceeding conducted
7 under the Act on or after the date of enactment of
8 this Act;

9 (10) the amendments made to section 22 of the
10 Act shall apply with respect to any payment of com-
11 pensation under the Act on or after the date of en-
12 actment of this Act;

13 (11) the amendments made to section 31 of the
14 Act shall apply with respect to any instance of
15 known or suspected fraud involving a claim under
16 the Act that is detected on or after the date of en-
17 actment of this Act; and

18 (12) the amendments made to section 44 of the
19 Act shall take effect on the January 1st following
20 the date of enactment of this Act.

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