

The Missouri General Assembly passed SB 700 which is effective August 28, 2016. This Bill modifies certain provisions in chapter 287, the Workers' Compensation Act, which is explained below.

VETERANS' ORGANIZATIONS EXEMPTION

§287.090.1 (4) was amended to state that volunteers of a tax-exempt veterans' organization, which is a 501(c)(19) organization, are exempt from the workers' compensation law, where such volunteers are not paid wages and provide services purely on a charitable and voluntary basis.

- a. The exemption currently in place for 501 (c)(3) organizations of the Internal Revenue Code has been extended to the 501 (c)(19) organizations of the Internal Revenue Code.
- b. This means that a 501(c)(19) organization of the Internal Revenue Code is not required to purchase workers' compensation insurance coverage for its volunteers.
- c. The veterans' organization may elect to cover the employees by purchasing and accepting a valid workers' compensation insurance policy or endorsement. If the veterans' organization is a member of a group, written notice of the election to insure the volunteers must be given to the group self-insurer.

WORKERS' COMPENSATION GRANTS--VOLUNTEER FIREFIGHTERS

§287.245 was added to permit volunteer fire protection associations to apply to the State Fire Marshal for grants for the purpose of funding the workers' compensation insurance premiums for the association's volunteer firefighters. Grants shall be disbursed by the Marshal, subject to appropriations, based upon the number of volunteer firefighters who received workers' compensation benefits from claims arising out of and in the course of the prevention or control of fire or the underwater recovery of drowning victims in the preceding calendar year.

§287.245 adds a schedule for the disbursement of grant money which is as follows:

- Associations which had 0-5 claims shall be eligible for \$2,000 in grant money;
- Associations which had 6-10 claims shall be eligible for \$1,500 in grant money;
- Associations which had 11-15 claims shall be eligible for \$1,000 in grant money; and
- Associations which had 16-20 claims shall be eligible for \$500 in grant money.

The provisions of this new section are not administered by the Division. The application and disbursement of grant monies will be the responsibility of the State Fire Marshal.

WORKERS' COMPENSATION PREMIUM RATES--SPLIT POINT

Currently, pursuant to §287.957, the uniform experience rating plan prohibits an adjustment to the experience modification of an employer if the total medical cost does not exceed \$1,000, and the employer pays all of the total medical costs, there is no lost time from the employment other than the 3-day waiting period, and no claim is filed.

§287.957 was amended to delete reference to the medical cost not exceeding \$1,000. The section, as amended, states that the uniform experience rating plan shall not adjust the experience modification of an employer if the total medical cost does not exceed twenty percent of the current split point of primary and excess losses under the uniform experience rating plan, and the employer pays all of the total medical costs, there is no lost time from the employment other than the 3-day waiting period, and no claim is filed.

Please note that there is no change with respect to an employer reporting the injury to the Division of Workers' Compensation. Employers are required to report injuries to the Division as set out in §287.380, RSMo.

The Division approved self insurance employers and group trusts should contact the Division's Insurance Unit at 573/526-6004.

CONTRACTOR CLASSIFICATION PREMIUM ADJUSTMENT PROGRAM

The Contractors Classification Premium Adjustment Program provides a premium credit for construction industry employers who pay high hourly wages. It applies only to the construction class codes – it does not apply to office workers or other non-construction employees. Subsection 4 was added to §287.975, to state that for purposes of calculating the premium credit under the Missouri contracting classification premium adjustment program, an employer within the construction group of code classifications may submit to NCCI the required payroll record information for the first, second, third, or fourth calendar quarter of the year prior to the workers' compensation policy beginning or renewal date provided the employer clearly indicates for which quarter the payroll information is being submitted.

Based upon this sub section, an employer may pick the calendar quarter for which the payroll information is submitted to NCCI.

If you have any questions, please contact the Missouri Department of Insurance and Professional Registration at insurance.mo.gov or the NCCI.