As Reported by the Senate Insurance Committee

134th General Assembly

Regular Session 2021-2022

Sub. H. B. No. 75

Representative Oelslager

Cosponsors: Representatives Baldridge, Callender, Carruthers, Edwards, Fraizer, Galonski, Holmes, Householder, John, Jones, Lanese, Lepore-Hagan, Miller, J., O'Brien, Plummer, Richardson, Riedel, Russo, White, Young, T.

Senator Huffman, S.

A BILL

ГО	amend sections 4121.43, 4123.57, 4123.58,	1
	4123.85, 4123.88, 4133.03, 4133.07, and 4133.08	2
	of the Revised Code to make appropriations for	3
	the Bureau of Workers' Compensation for the	4
	biennium beginning July 1, 2021, and ending June	5
	30, 2023, to provide authorization and	6
	conditions for the operation of the Bureau's	7
	programs, and to make changes to the Workers'	8
	Compensation Law.	9

BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF OHIO:

Section 1. All items in this act are hereby appropriated	10
out of any moneys in the state treasury to the credit of the	11
designated fund. For all appropriations made in this act, those	12
in the first column are for fiscal year 2022, and those in the	13
second column are for fiscal year 2023. The appropriations made	14
in this act are in addition to any other appropriations made for	15
the biennium beginning July 1, 2021, and ending June 30, 2023.	16

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	1	2	3	4	5
	1	Δ	3	4	5
A			BWC BUREAU OF WORKERS'	COMPENSATION	
В	Dedica	ted Purp	ose Fund Group		
С	7023	855407	Claims, Risk and Medical Management	\$118,006,090	\$121,583,115
D	7023	855408	Fraud Prevention	\$15,936,735	\$18,011,577
Ε	7023	855409	Administrative Services	\$124,325,665	\$129,108,432
F	7023	855410	Attorney General Payments	\$6,080,080	\$6,080,080
G	8220	855606	Coal Workers' Fund	\$190,090	\$190,100
Н	8230	855608	Marine Industry	\$79 , 273	\$79 , 276
Ι	8250	855605	Disabled Workers Relief Fund	\$197,612	\$197,621
J	8260	855609	Safety and Hygiene Operating	\$25,343,000	\$25,085,000
K	8260	855610	Safety Grants	\$35,000,000	\$35,000,000
L	8260	855611	Health and Safety Initiative	\$3,000,000	\$3,000,000
М	8260	855612	Safety Campaign	\$1,500,000	\$1,500,000
N	8260	855613	Research Grants	\$3,000,000	\$1,000,000

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0	8260	855618	Substance Use Recovery and Workplace Safety Program	\$3,500,000	\$4,000,000	
Р	8260	855619	Safety and Health Center of Excellence	\$15,000,000	\$15,000,000	
Q	TOTAL	DPF Dedi	cated Purpose Fund Group	\$351,158,545	\$359,835,201	
R	Federa	l Fund G	roup			
S	3490	855601	OSHA Enforcement	\$1,869,212	\$1,876,338	
T	3FW0	855614	BLS SOII Grant	\$195,104	\$195,104	
U	TOTAL	FED Fede	ral Fund Group	\$2,064,316	\$2,071,442	
V	TOTAL	ALL BUDG	ET FUND GROUPS	\$353,222,861	\$361,906,643	
	WOR	KERS' CO	MPENSATION FRAUD UNIT			18
	Of	the fore	going appropriation item 85	55410, Attorney		19
Ge	neral E	Payments,	\$828,200 in each fiscal ye	ear shall be used	to	20
fu	nd the	expenses	of the Workers' Compensat:	ion Fraud Unit wi	thin	21
th	e Attor	ney Gene	eral's Office. These payment	ts shall be proce	ssed	22
at	the be	eginning	of each quarter of each fis	scal year and		23
de	posited	l into th	ne Workers' Compensation Sec	ction Fund (Fund		24
19	50) use	ed by the	e Attorney General.			25
	SAF	ETY AND	HYGIENE			26
	Not	withstan	ding section 4121.37 of the	e Revised Code, t	he	27
Tr	easurer	of Stat	e shall remit \$25,343,000 c	cash in fiscal ye	ar	28
20	22 and	\$25,085,	000 cash in fiscal year 202	23 from the State		29
In	surance	Fund to	the state treasury to the	credit of the Sa	fety	30

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and Hygiene Fund (Fund 8260).	31
SAFETY GRANTS	32
Notwithstanding section 4121.37 of the Revised Code, the	33
Treasurer of State shall remit \$35,000,000 cash in fiscal year	34
2022 and \$35,000,000 cash in fiscal year 2023 from the State	35
Insurance Fund to the state treasury to the credit of the Safety	36
and Hygiene Fund (Fund 8260) to be used for Safety Grants.	37
HEALTH AND SAFETY INITIATIVE	38
Notwithstanding section 4121.37 of Revised Code, the	39
Treasurer of State shall remit \$3,000,000 cash in fiscal year	40
2022 and \$3,000,000 cash in fiscal year 2023 from the State	41
Insurance Fund to the state treasury to the credit of the Safety	42
and Hygiene Fund (Fund 8260). These amounts shall be used under	43
appropriation item 855611, Health and Safety Initiative, for the	44
purpose of creating and operating a health and wellness program.	45
SAFETY CAMPAIGN	46
Notwithstanding section 4121.37 of the Revised Code, the	47
Treasurer of State shall remit \$1,500,000 cash in fiscal year	48
2022 and \$1,500,000 cash in fiscal year 2023 from the State	49
Insurance Fund to the state treasury to the credit of the Safety	50
and Hygiene Fund (Fund 8260). These amounts shall be used under	51
appropriation item 855612, Safety Campaign, for the purpose of	52
creating and operating a statewide safety awareness and	53
education campaign.	54
FEDERAL GRANT PROGRAMS	55
The foregoing appropriation item 855609, Safety and	56
Hygiene Operating, may be used to provide the state match for	57
federal grant funding received by the Division of Safety and	58

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Hygiene.	59
VOCATIONAL REHABILITATION	60
VOCATIONAL KEMBIELIATION	00
The Bureau of Workers' Compensation and the Opportunities	61
for Ohioans with Disabilities Agency may enter into an	62
interagency agreement for the provision of vocational	63
rehabilitation services and staff to mutually eligible clients.	64
The Bureau may provide funds from the State Insurance Fund to	65
fund vocational rehabilitation services and staff in accordance	66
with the interagency agreement.	67
RESEARCH GRANTS	68
Notwithstanding section 4121.37 of the Revised Code, the	69
Treasurer of State shall remit \$3,000,000 cash in fiscal year	70
2022 and \$1,000,000 cash in fiscal year 2023 from the State	71
Insurance Fund to the state treasury to the credit of the Safety	72
and Hygiene Fund (Fund 8260). These amounts shall be used under	73
appropriation item 855613, Research Grants, for the purpose of	74
creating and operating the occupational safety and health	75
research program.	76
SUBSTANCE USE RECOVERY AND WORKPLACE SAFETY PROGRAM	77
Notwithstanding section 4121.37 of the Revised Code, the	78
Treasurer of State shall remit \$3,500,000 cash in fiscal year	79
2022 and \$4,000,000 cash in fiscal year 2023 from the State	80
Insurance Fund to the state treasury to the credit of the Safety	81
and Hygiene Fund (Fund 8260). These amounts shall be used under	82
appropriation item 855618, Substance Use Recovery and Workplace	83
Safety Program, for the purpose of creating and operating the	84
opioid workplace safety program.	85
SAFETY AND HEALTH CENTER OF EXCELLENCE	86

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Notwithstanding section 4121.37 of the Revised Code, the	87
Treasurer of State shall remit \$15,000,000 cash in fiscal year	88
2022 and \$15,000,000 cash in fiscal year 2023 from the State	89
Insurance Fund to the state treasury to the credit of the Safety	90
and Hygiene Fund (Fund 8260). These amounts shall be used under	91
appropriation item 855619, Safety and Health Center of	92
Excellence, for the purpose of creating a center of excellence	93
at the Ohio Center of Occupational Safety and Health.	94
	0.5
ADMINISTRATIVE COST FUND	95
Notwithstanding section 4123.341 of the Revised Code, the	96
Treasurer of State shall remit up to \$25,000,000 cash in fiscal	97
year 2022 and \$25,000,000 cash in fiscal year 2023 from the	98
State Insurance Fund to the state treasury to the credit of the	99
Workers' Compensation Fund (Fund 7023).	100
Section 2. DEPUTY INSPECTOR GENERAL FOR BWC AND OIC	101
Section 2. DEPUTY INSPECTOR GENERAL FOR BWC AND OIC FUNDING	101 102
FUNDING	102
FUNDING To pay for the FY 2022 costs related to the Deputy	102
FUNDING To pay for the FY 2022 costs related to the Deputy Inspector General for the Bureau of Workers' Compensation and	102 103 104
FUNDING To pay for the FY 2022 costs related to the Deputy Inspector General for the Bureau of Workers' Compensation and Industrial Commission, on July 1, 2021, and January 1, 2022, or	102 103 104 105
To pay for the FY 2022 costs related to the Deputy Inspector General for the Bureau of Workers' Compensation and Industrial Commission, on July 1, 2021, and January 1, 2022, or as soon as possible thereafter, the Director of Budget and	102 103 104 105 106
To pay for the FY 2022 costs related to the Deputy Inspector General for the Bureau of Workers' Compensation and Industrial Commission, on July 1, 2021, and January 1, 2022, or as soon as possible thereafter, the Director of Budget and Management shall transfer \$212,500 cash from the Workers'	102 103 104 105 106 107
To pay for the FY 2022 costs related to the Deputy Inspector General for the Bureau of Workers' Compensation and Industrial Commission, on July 1, 2021, and January 1, 2022, or as soon as possible thereafter, the Director of Budget and Management shall transfer \$212,500 cash from the Workers' Compensation Fund (Fund 7023) to the Deputy Inspector General	102 103 104 105 106 107 108
To pay for the FY 2022 costs related to the Deputy Inspector General for the Bureau of Workers' Compensation and Industrial Commission, on July 1, 2021, and January 1, 2022, or as soon as possible thereafter, the Director of Budget and Management shall transfer \$212,500 cash from the Workers' Compensation Fund (Fund 7023) to the Deputy Inspector General for the Bureau of Workers' Compensation and Industrial	102 103 104 105 106 107 108 109
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To pay for the FY 2022 costs related to the Deputy Inspector General for the Bureau of Workers' Compensation and Industrial Commission, on July 1, 2021, and January 1, 2022, or as soon as possible thereafter, the Director of Budget and Management shall transfer \$212,500 cash from the Workers' Compensation Fund (Fund 7023) to the Deputy Inspector General for the Bureau of Workers' Compensation and Industrial	102 103 104 105 106 107 108 109
To pay for the FY 2022 costs related to the Deputy Inspector General for the Bureau of Workers' Compensation and Industrial Commission, on July 1, 2021, and January 1, 2022, or as soon as possible thereafter, the Director of Budget and Management shall transfer \$212,500 cash from the Workers' Compensation Fund (Fund 7023) to the Deputy Inspector General for the Bureau of Workers' Compensation and Industrial Commission Fund (Fund 5FT0).	102 103 104 105 106 107 108 109 110
To pay for the FY 2022 costs related to the Deputy Inspector General for the Bureau of Workers' Compensation and Industrial Commission, on July 1, 2021, and January 1, 2022, or as soon as possible thereafter, the Director of Budget and Management shall transfer \$212,500 cash from the Workers' Compensation Fund (Fund 7023) to the Deputy Inspector General for the Bureau of Workers' Compensation and Industrial Commission Fund (Fund 5FT0). To pay for the FY 2023 costs related to the Deputy	102 103 104 105 106 107 108 109 110

Management shall transfer \$212,500 cash from the Workers'

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twenty-six weeks after the termination of wages in lieu of those	174
payments, or not earlier than twenty-six weeks after the date of	175
the injury or contraction of an occupational disease in the	176
absence of payments under section 4123.56 of the Revised Code <u>or</u>	177
wages in lieu of those payments, the employee may file an	178
application with the bureau of workers' compensation for the	179
determination of the percentage of the employee's permanent	180
partial disability resulting from an injury or occupational	181
disease.	182

Whenever the application is filed, the bureau shall send a 183 copy of the application to the employee's employer or the 184 employer's representative and shall schedule the employee for a 185 medical examination by the bureau medical section. The bureau 186 shall send a copy of the report of the medical examination to 187 the employee, the employer, and their representatives. 188 Thereafter, the administrator of workers' compensation shall 189 review the employee's claim file and make a tentative order as 190 the evidence before the administrator at the time of the making 191 of the order warrants. If the administrator determines that 192 there is a conflict of evidence, the administrator shall send 193 the application, along with the claimant's file, to the district 194 hearing officer who shall set the application for a hearing. 195

If an employee fails to respond to an attempt to schedule a medical examination by the bureau medical section, or fails to attend a medical examination scheduled under this section without notice or explanation, the employee's application for a finding shall be dismissed without prejudice. The employee may refile the application. A dismissed application does not toll the continuing jurisdiction of the industrial commission under section 4123.52 of the Revised Code. The administrator shall adopt rules addressing the manner in which an employee will be

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notified of a possible dismissal and how an employee may refile 205 an application for a determination. 206

The administrator shall notify the employee, the employer, 207 and their representatives, in writing, of the tentative order 208 and of the parties' right to request a hearing. Unless the 209 employee, the employer, or their representative notifies the 210 administrator, in writing, of an objection to the tentative 211 order within twenty days after receipt of the notice thereof, 212 the tentative order shall go into effect and the employee shall 213 receive the compensation provided in the order. In no event 214 shall there be a reconsideration of a tentative order issued 215 under this division. 216

If the employee, the employer, or their representatives timely notify the administrator of an objection to the tentative order, the matter shall be referred to a district hearing officer who shall set the application for hearing with written notices to all interested persons. Upon referral to a district hearing officer, the employer may obtain a medical examination of the employee, pursuant to rules of the industrial commission.

(A) The district hearing officer, upon the application, 224 shall determine the percentage of the employee's permanent 225 disability, except as is subject to division (B) of this 226 section, based upon that condition of the employee resulting 227 from the injury or occupational disease and causing permanent 228 impairment evidenced by medical or clinical findings reasonably 229 demonstrable. The employee shall receive sixty-six and two-230 thirds per cent of the employee's average weekly wage, but not 231 more than a maximum of thirty-three and one-third per cent of 232 the statewide average weekly wage as defined in division (C) of 233 section 4123.62 of the Revised Code, per week regardless of the 234

average weekly wage, for the number of weeks which equals the	235
percentage of two hundred weeks. Except on application for	236
reconsideration, review, or modification, which is filed within	237
ten days after the date of receipt of the decision of the	238
district hearing officer, in no instance shall the former award	239
be modified unless it is found from medical or clinical findings	240
that the condition of the claimant resulting from the injury has	241
so progressed as to have increased the percentage of permanent	242
partial disability. A staff hearing officer shall hear an	243
application for reconsideration filed and the staff hearing	244
officer's decision is final. An employee may file an application	245
for a subsequent determination of the percentage of the	246
employee's permanent disability. If such an application is	247
filed, the bureau shall send a copy of the application to the	248
employer or the employer's representative. No sooner than sixty	249
days from the date of the mailing of the application to the	250
employer or the employer's representative, the administrator	251
shall review the application. The administrator may require a	252
medical examination or medical review of the employee. The	253
administrator shall issue a tentative order based upon the	254
evidence before the administrator, provided that if the	255
administrator requires a medical examination or medical review,	256
the administrator shall not issue the tentative order until the	257
completion of the examination or review.	258

The employer may obtain a medical examination of the 259 employee and may submit medical evidence at any stage of the 260 process up to a hearing before the district hearing officer, 261 pursuant to rules of the commission. The administrator shall 262 notify the employee, the employer, and their representatives, in 263 writing, of the nature and amount of any tentative order issued 264 on an application requesting a subsequent determination of the 265

percentage of an employee's permanent disability. An employee,	266
employer, or their representatives may object to the tentative	267
order within twenty days after the receipt of the notice	268
thereof. If no timely objection is made, the tentative order	269
shall go into effect. In no event shall there be a	270
reconsideration of a tentative order issued under this division.	271
If an objection is timely made, the application for a subsequent	272
determination shall be referred to a district hearing officer	273
who shall set the application for a hearing with written notice	274
to all interested persons. No application for subsequent	275
percentage determinations on the same claim for injury or	276
occupational disease shall be accepted for review by the	277
district hearing officer unless supported by substantial	278
evidence of new and changed circumstances developing since the	279
time of the hearing on the original or last determination.	280

No award shall be made under this division based upon a 281 percentage of disability which, when taken with all other 282 percentages of permanent disability, exceeds one hundred per 283 cent. If the percentage of the permanent disability of the 284 employee equals or exceeds ninety per cent, compensation for 285 permanent partial disability shall be paid for two hundred 286 weeks. 287

Compensation payable under this division accrues and is

payable to the employee from the date of last payment of

compensation, or, in cases where no previous compensation has

been paid, from the date of the injury or the date of the

diagnosis of the occupational disease.

When an award under this division has been made prior to 293 the death of an employee, all unpaid installments accrued or to 294 accrue under the provisions of the award are payable to the 295

surviving spouse, or if there is no surviving spouse, to the	296
dependent children of the employee, and if there are no children	297
surviving, then to other dependents as the administrator	298
determines.	299
(B) For purposes of this division, "payable per week"	300
means the seven-consecutive-day period in which compensation is	301
paid in installments according to the schedule associated with	302
the applicable injury as set forth in this division.	303
Compensation paid in weekly installments according to the	304
schedule described in this division may only be commuted to one	305
or more lump sum payments pursuant to the procedure set forth in	306
section 4123.64 of the Revised Code.	307
In cases included in the following schedule the	308
compensation payable per week to the employee is the statewide	309
average weekly wage as defined in division (C) of section	310
4123.62 of the Revised Code per week and shall be paid in	311
installments according to the following schedule:	312
For the loss of a first finger, commonly known as a thumb,	313
sixty weeks.	314
For the loss of a second finger, commonly called index	315
finger, thirty-five weeks.	316
For the loss of a third finger, thirty weeks.	317
For the loss of a fourth finger, twenty weeks.	318
For the loss of a fifth finger, commonly known as the	319
little finger, fifteen weeks.	320
The loss of a second, or distal, phalange of the thumb is	321
considered equal to the loss of one half of such thumb; the loss	322
of more than one half of such thumb is considered equal to the	323

For the loss of a hand, one hundred seventy-five weeks.

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For the permanent and total loss of hearing, one hundred 381 twenty-five weeks; but, except pursuant to the next preceding 382 paragraph, in no case shall an award of compensation be made for 383 less than permanent and total loss of hearing. 384

In case an injury or occupational disease results in 385 serious facial or head disfigurement which either impairs or may 386 in the future impair the opportunities to secure or retain 387 employment, the administrator shall make an award of 388 compensation as it deems proper and equitable, in view of the 389 390 nature of the disfigurement, and not to exceed the sum of ten thousand dollars. For the purpose of making the award, it is not 391 material whether the employee is gainfully employed in any 392 occupation or trade at the time of the administrator's 393 determination. 394

When an award under this division has been made prior to the death of an employee all unpaid installments accrued or to accrue under the provisions of the award shall be payable to the surviving spouse, or if there is no surviving spouse, to the dependent children of the employee and if there are no such children, then to such dependents as the administrator determines.

When an employee has sustained the loss of a member by 402 severance, but no award has been made on account thereof prior 403 to the employee's death, the administrator shall make an award 404 in accordance with this division for the loss which shall be 405 payable to the surviving spouse, or if there is no surviving 406 spouse, to the dependent children of the employee and if there 407 are no such children, then to such dependents as the 408 administrator determines. 409

(C) Compensation for partial impairment under divisions

(A) and (B) of this section is in addition to the compensation	411
paid the employee pursuant to section 4123.56 of the Revised	412
Code. A claimant may receive compensation under divisions (A)	413
and (B) of this section.	414

In all cases arising under division (B) of this section, if it is determined by any one of the following: (1) the amputee clinic at University hospital, Ohio state university; (2) the opportunities for Ohioans with disabilities agency; (3) an amputee clinic or prescribing physician approved by the administrator or the administrator's designee, that an injured or disabled employee is in need of an artificial appliance, or in need of a repair thereof, regardless of whether the appliance or its repair will be serviceable in the vocational rehabilitation of the injured employee, and regardless of whether the employee has returned to or can ever again return to any gainful employment, the bureau shall pay the cost of the artificial appliance or its repair out of the surplus created by division (B) of section 4123.34 of the Revised Code.

In those cases where an opportunities for Ohioans with disabilities agency's recommendation that an injured or disabled employee is in need of an artificial appliance would conflict with their state plan, adopted pursuant to the "Rehabilitation Act of 1973," 87 Stat. 355, 29 U.S.C.A. 701, the administrator or the administrator's designee or the bureau may obtain a recommendation from an amputee clinic or prescribing physician that they determine appropriate.

(D) If an employee of a state fund employer makes 437 application for a finding and the administrator finds that the 438 employee has contracted silicosis as defined in division (Y), or 439 coal miners' pneumoconiosis as defined in division (Z), or 440

asbestosis as defined in division (BB) of section 4123.68 of the	441
Revised Code, and that a change of such employee's occupation is	442
medically advisable in order to decrease substantially further	443
exposure to silica dust, asbestos, or coal dust and if the	444
employee, after the finding, has changed or shall change the	445
employee's occupation to an occupation in which the exposure to	446
silica dust, asbestos, or coal dust is substantially decreased,	447
the administrator shall allow to the employee an amount equal to	448
fifty per cent of the statewide average weekly wage per week for	449
a period of thirty weeks, commencing as of the date of the	450
discontinuance or change, and for a period of one hundred weeks	451
immediately following the expiration of the period of thirty	452
weeks, the employee shall receive sixty-six and two-thirds per	453
cent of the loss of wages resulting directly and solely from the	454
change of occupation but not to exceed a maximum of an amount	455
equal to fifty per cent of the statewide average weekly wage per	456
week. No such employee is entitled to receive more than one	457
allowance on account of discontinuance of employment or change	458
of occupation and benefits shall cease for any period during	459
which the employee is employed in an occupation in which the	460
exposure to silica dust, asbestos, or coal dust is not	461
substantially less than the exposure in the occupation in which	462
the employee was formerly employed or for any period during	463
which the employee may be entitled to receive compensation or	464
benefits under section 4123.68 of the Revised Code on account of	465
disability from silicosis, asbestosis, or coal miners'	466
pneumoconiosis. An award for change of occupation for a coal	467
miner who has contracted coal miners' pneumoconiosis may be	468
granted under this division even though the coal miner continues	469
employment with the same employer, so long as the coal miner's	470
employment subsequent to the change is such that the coal	471
miner's exposure to coal dust is substantially decreased and a	472

change of occupation is certified by the claimant as permanent. 473

The administrator may accord to the employee medical and other 474

benefits in accordance with section 4123.66 of the Revised Code. 475

(E) If a firefighter or police officer makes application 476 for a finding and the administrator finds that the firefighter 477 or police officer has contracted a cardiovascular and pulmonary 478 disease as defined in division (W) of section 4123.68 of the 479 Revised Code, and that a change of the firefighter's or police 480 officer's occupation is medically advisable in order to decrease 481 482 substantially further exposure to smoke, toxic gases, chemical fumes, and other toxic vapors, and if the firefighter, or police 483 officer, after the finding, has changed or changes occupation to 484 an occupation in which the exposure to smoke, toxic gases, 485 chemical fumes, and other toxic vapors is substantially 486 decreased, the administrator shall allow to the firefighter or 487 police officer an amount equal to fifty per cent of the 488 statewide average weekly wage per week for a period of thirty 489 weeks, commencing as of the date of the discontinuance or 490 change, and for a period of seventy-five weeks immediately 491 following the expiration of the period of thirty weeks the 492 administrator shall allow the firefighter or police officer 493 sixty-six and two-thirds per cent of the loss of wages resulting 494 directly and solely from the change of occupation but not to 495 exceed a maximum of an amount equal to fifty per cent of the 496 statewide average weekly wage per week. No such firefighter or 497 police officer is entitled to receive more than one allowance on 498 account of discontinuance of employment or change of occupation 499 and benefits shall cease for any period during which the 500 firefighter or police officer is employed in an occupation in 501 which the exposure to smoke, toxic gases, chemical fumes, and 502 other toxic vapors is not substantially less than the exposure 503

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in the occupation in which the firefighter or police officer was 504 formerly employed or for any period during which the firefighter 505 or police officer may be entitled to receive compensation or 506 benefits under section 4123.68 of the Revised Code on account of 507 disability from a cardiovascular and pulmonary disease. The 508 administrator may accord to the firefighter or police officer 509 medical and other benefits in accordance with section 4123.66 of 510 the Revised Code. 511

(F) An order issued under this section is appealable pursuant to section 4123.511 of the Revised Code but is not appealable to court under section 4123.512 of the Revised Code.

Sec. 4123.58. (A) In cases of permanent total disability, 515 the employee shall receive an award to continue until the 516 employee's death in the amount of sixty-six and two-thirds per 517 cent of the employee's average weekly wage, but, except as 518 otherwise provided in division (B) of this section, not more 519 than a maximum amount of weekly compensation which is equal to 520 sixty-six and two-thirds per cent of the statewide average 521 weekly wage as defined in division (C) of section 4123.62 of the 522 Revised Code in effect on the date of injury or on the date the 523 disability due to the occupational disease begins, nor not less 524 525 than a minimum amount of weekly compensation which is equal to fifty per cent of the statewide average weekly wage as defined 526 in division (C) of section 4123.62 of the Revised Code in effect 527 on the date of injury or on the date the disability due to the 528 occupational disease begins, unless the employee's average 529 weekly wage is less than fifty per cent of the statewide average 530 weekly wage at the time of the injury, in which event the 531 employee shall receive compensation in an amount equal to the 532 employee's average weekly wage. 533

(B) In the event the weekly workers' compensation amount	534
when combined with disability benefits received pursuant to the	535
Social Security Act is less than the statewide average weekly	536
wage as defined in division (C) of section 4123.62 of the	537
Revised Code, then the maximum amount of weekly compensation	538
shall be the statewide average weekly wage as defined in	539
division (C) of section 4123.62 of the Revised Code. At any time	540
that social security disability benefits terminate or are	541
reduced, the workers' compensation award shall be recomputed to	542
pay the maximum amount permitted under this division.	543
(C) Permanent total disability shall be compensated	544
according to this section only when at least one of the	545
following applies to the claimant:	546
(1) The claimant has lost, or lost the use of both hands	547
or both arms, or both feet or both legs, or both eyes, or of any	548
two thereof; however, the loss or loss of use of one limb does	549
not constitute the loss or loss of use of two body parts;	550
(2) The impairment resulting from the employee's injury or	551
occupational disease prevents the employee from engaging in	552
sustained remunerative employment utilizing the employment	553
skills that the employee has or may reasonably be expected to	554
develop.	555
(D) Permanent total disability shall not be compensated	556
when the reason the employee is unable to engage in sustained	557
remunerative employment is due to any of the following reasons,	558
whether individually or in combination:	559
(1) Impairments of the employee that are not the result of	560
an allowed injury or occupational disease;	561

(2) Solely the employee's age or aging;

(3) The employee retired or otherwise is not working for	563
reasons unrelated to the allowed injury or occupational disease.	564
(4) The employee has not engaged in educational or	565
rehabilitative efforts to enhance the employee's employability,	566
unless such efforts are determined to be in vain.	567
(E) Compensation payable under this section for permanent	568
total disability is in addition to benefits payable under	569
division (B) of section 4123.57 of the Revised Code.	570
(F) If an employee is awarded compensation for permanent	571
total disability under this section because the employee	572
sustained a traumatic brain injury, the employee is entitled to	573
that compensation regardless of the employee's employment in a	574
sheltered workshop subsequent to the award, on the condition	575
that the employee does not receive income, compensation, or	576
remuneration from that employment in excess of two thousand	577
dollars in any calendar quarter. As used in this division,	578
"sheltered workshop" means a state agency or nonprofit	579
organization established to carry out a program of	580
rehabilitation for handicapped individuals or to provide these	581
individuals with remunerative employment or other occupational	582
rehabilitating activity.	583
(G) If the industrial commission has adjudicated a	584
claimant's application for compensation payable under this	585
section for permanent total disability and issued a final order	586
denying compensation for that application, the claimant shall	587
present evidence of new and changed circumstances before the	588
industrial commission may consider a subsequent application	589
filed by the claimant for compensation under this section for	590
the same injury or occupational disease identified in the	591
previous application.	592

Sec. 4123.85. In all cases of occupational disease, or 593 death resulting from occupational disease, claims for 594 compensation or benefits are forever barred unless, within two 595 years one year after the disability due to the disease began, or 596 within such longer period as does not exceed six months after 597 diagnosis of the occupational disease by a licensed physician or 598 within two years one year after death occurs, application is 599 made to the industrial commission or the bureau of workers' 600 compensation or to the employer if he the employer is a self-601 602 insuring employer.

Sec. 4123.88. (A) No person shall orally or in writing, 603 directly or indirectly, or through any agent or other person 604 fraudulently hold the person's self out or represent the 605 person's self or any of the person's partners or associates as 606 authorized by a claimant or employer to take charge of, or 607 represent the claimant or employer in respect of, any claim or 608 matter in connection therewith before the bureau of workers' 609 compensation or the industrial commission or its district or 610 staff hearing officers. No person shall directly or indirectly 611 solicit authority, or pay or give anything of value to another 612 person to solicit authority, or accept or receive pay or 613 anything of value from another person for soliciting authority, 614 from a claimant or employer to take charge of, or represent the 615 claimant or employer in respect of, any claim or appeal which is 616 or may be filed with the bureau or commission. No person shall, 617 without prior authority from the bureau, a member of the 618 commission, the claimant, or the employer, examine or directly 619 or indirectly cause or employ another person to examine any 620 claim file or any other file pertaining thereto. No person shall 621 forge an authorization for the purpose of examining or cause 622 another person to examine any such file. No district or staff 623

hearing officer or other employee of the bureau or commission, 624 notwithstanding the provisions of section 4123.27 of the Revised 625 Code, shall divulge any information in respect of any claim or 626 appeal which is or may be filed with a district or staff hearing 627 officer, the bureau, or commission to any person other than 628 members of the commission or to the superior of the employee 629 except upon authorization of the administrator of workers' 630 compensation or a member of the commission or upon authorization 631 of the claimant or employer. 632

- (B) The records described or referred to in division (A) 633 of this section are not public records as defined in division 634 (A)(1) of section 149.43 of the Revised Code. Any information 635 directly or indirectly identifying the address or telephone 636 number of a claimant, regardless of whether the claimant's claim 637 is active or closed, is not a public record. No person shall 638 solicit or obtain any such information from any such employee 639 without first having obtained an authorization therefor as 640 provided in this section. 641
- (C) Except as otherwise specified in division (D) of this 642 643 section, information kept by the commission or the bureau pursuant to this section is for the exclusive use and 644 information of the commission and the bureau in the discharge of 645 their official duties, and shall not be open to the public nor 646 be used in any court in any action or proceeding pending 647 therein, unless the commission or the bureau is a party to the 648 action or proceeding. The information, however, may be tabulated 649 and published by the commission or the bureau in statistical 650 form for the use and information of other state agencies and the 651 public. 652
 - (D) (1) Upon receiving a written request made and signed by

an individual whose primary occupation is as a journalist, the	654
commission or the bureau shall disclose to the individual the	655
address or addresses and telephone number or numbers of	656
claimants, regardless of whether their claims are active or	657
closed, and the dependents of those claimants	658
The commission or the bureau shall not disclose the name	659
or names of claimants to a journalist under this division. It is	660
the intent of the general assembly to supersede the amendments	661
made to this section by S.B. 4 of the 134th general assembly	662
regarding the release of the name or names of claimants.	663
(2) An individual described in division (D)(1) of this	664
section is permitted to request the information described in	665
that division for multiple workers or dependents claimants in	666
one written request.	667
(3) An individual described in division (D)(1) of this	668
section shall include all of the following in the written	669
request:	670
(a) The individual's name, title, and signature;	671
(b) The name and title of the individual's employer;	672
(c) A statement that the disclosure of the information	673
sought is in the public interest;	674
(d) A statement that the individual acknowledges that the	675
information is not a public record and that the individual will	676
not disclose the information to any other person for any reason	677
unrelated to journalism.	678
(4) Neither the commission nor the bureau may inquire as	679
to the specific public interest served by the disclosure of	680
information requested by an individual under division (D) of	681

this section.	682
(E) Except upon authorization as provided in division (A)	683
of this section, no person other than an individual described in	684
division (D)(1) of this section shall recklessly possess or	685
obtain records described or referred to in division (A) of this	686
section that are not public records as defined in division (A)	687
(1) of section 149.43 of the Revised Code, including the address	688
or addresses and telephone number or numbers of claimants	689
obtained by an individual described in division (D)(1) of this	690
section.	691
(F) As used in this section, "journalist" has the same	692
meaning as in division (B)(9) of section 149.43 of the Revised	693
Code.	694
Sec. 4133.03. (A) The alternate employer organization with	695
whom a worksite employee is employed shall do all of the	696
following:	697
(1) Process and pay all wages and applicable state and	698
federal payroll taxes associated with the worksite employee,	699
irrespective of payments made by the client employer, pursuant	700
to the terms and conditions of compensation in the alternate	701
employer organization agreement between the alternate employer	702
organization and the client employer;	703
(2) Pay all related payroll taxes associated with a	704
worksite employee independent of the terms and conditions	705
contained in the alternate employer organization agreement	706
between the alternate employer organization and the client	707
employer;	708
(3) Maintain workers' compensation coverage, pay all	709
workers' compensation premiums, and manage all workers'	710

compensation claims, filings, and related procedures associated	711
with a worksite employee in compliance with Chapters 4121. and	712
4123. of the Revised Code, except that when worksite employees	713
include family farm officers, ordained ministers, or corporate	714
officers of the client employer, payroll reports shall include	715
the entire amount of payroll associated with those persons;	716
(4) Annually provide written notice to each worksite	717
employee it assigns to perform services to a client employer of	718
the relationship between and the responsibilities of the	719
alternate employer organization and the client employer;	720
(5) Maintain complete records separately listing the	721
manual classifications of each client employer and the payroll	722
reported to each manual classification for each client employer	723
for each payroll reporting period during the time period covered	724
in the alternate employer organization agreement;	725
(6) Maintain a record of workers' compensation claims for	726
each client employer;	727
(7) Make periodic reports, as determined by the	728
administrator of workers' compensation, of client employers and	729
total workforce to the administrator;	730
(8) Report individual client employer payroll, claims, and	731
classification data under a separate and unique subaccount to	732
the administrator;	733
(9) Within fourteen days after receiving notice from the	734
bureau of workers' compensation that a refund or rebate will be	735
applied to workers' compensation premiums, provide a copy of	736
that notice to any client employer to whom that notice is	737
relevant;	738
(10) Annually certify to the administrator that all client	739

769

employer federal payroll taxes have been timely and 740 appropriately paid, and on request of the administrator, provide 741 proof of payment. 742 (B) In any alternate employer organization agreement 743 between an alternate employer organization and a client 744 employer, the client employer shall be listed as the employer on 745 the W-2 forms of the worksite employees, but the alternate 746 employer organization remains jointly and severally liable for 747 all applicable local, state, and federal withholding and 748 749 employer-paid taxes with respect to the worksite employees. (C) An alternate employer organization shall file federal 750 payroll taxes entirely under the tax identification number of 751 the client employer, but shall remain jointly and severally 752 liable for all wages and payroll taxes associated with worksite 753 employees. In addition, if any of the alternate employer 754 organization's clients fail to transmit payment to the alternate 755 employer organization sufficient to cover payment of all wages 756 and employer-paid taxes, the alternate employer organization 757 shall keep a record of the nonpayment or underpayment and a 758 record that the alternate employer organization nonetheless paid 759 760 the wages and taxes owed. (D) An alternate employer organization may not provide 761 partial or split workers' compensation coverage for worksite 762 employees in which the client employer provides that coverage 763 for some, but not all, of the client employer's worksite 764 765 employees. On entering into an alternate employer organization agreement, all worksite employees shall be covered under the 766

(E) The alternate employer organization with whom a

workers' compensation policy of the alternate employer

organization.

worksite employee is employed shall provide a list of all of the	//(
following information to the client employer on the written	771
request of the client employer:	772
(1) All workers' compensation claims, premiums, and	773
payroll associated with that client employer;	774
(2) Compensation and benefits paid and reserves	775
established for each claim listed under division (E)(1) of this	776
section;	777
(3) Any other information available to the alternate	778
employer organization from the bureau of workers' compensation	779
regarding that client employer.	780
(F)(1) An alternate employer organization shall provide	781
the information required under division (E) of this section in	782
writing to the requesting client employer within forty-five days	783
after receiving a written request from the client employer.	784
(2) For purposes of division (F) of this section, an	785
alternate employer organization has provided the required	786
information to the client employer when the information is	787
received by the United States postal service or when the	788
information is personally delivered, in writing, directly to the	789
client employer.	790
(G) Except as provided in section 4133.11 of the Revised	791
Code and unless otherwise agreed to in the alternate employer	792
organization agreement, the alternate employer organization with	793
whom a worksite employee is employed has a right of direction	794
and control over each worksite employee assigned to a client	795
employer's location. However, a client employer shall retain	796
sufficient direction and control over a worksite employee as is	797
necessary to do any of the following:	798

(1) Conduct the client employer's business, including	799
training and supervising worksite employees;	800
(2) Ensure the quality, adequacy, and safety of the goods	801
or services produced or sold in the client employer's business;	802
(3) Discharge any fiduciary responsibility that the client	803
employer may have;	804
(4) Comply with any applicable licensure, regulatory, or	805
statutory requirement of the client employer.	806
(H) Unless otherwise agreed to in the alternate employer	807
organization agreement, liability for acts, errors, and	808
omissions shall be determined as follows:	809
(1) An alternate employer organization shall not be liable	810
for the acts, errors, and omissions of a client employer or a	811
worksite employee when those acts, errors, and omissions occur	812
under the direction and control of the client employer.	813
(2) A client employer shall not be liable for the acts,	814
errors, and omissions of an alternate employer organization or a	815
worksite employee when those acts, errors, and omissions occur	816
under the direction and control of the alternate employer	817
organization.	818
(I) Nothing in divisions (G) and (H) of this section shall	819
be construed to limit any liability or obligation specifically	820
agreed to in the alternate employer organization agreement.	821
(J) An alternate employer organization is not, and shall	822
not be considered, a professional employer organization, as	823
defined in section 4125.01 of the Revised Code. An Beginning on	824
and after January 1, 2022, an alternate employer organization	825
may not hold itself out, advertise, or otherwise identify itself	826

in any way as a professional employer organization. 827 (K) In an alternate employer organization agreement, both 828 the client employer and alternate employer organization are 829 jointly and severally liable for the payment of employee wages 830 and taxes. The alternate employer organization and client 831 employer share in the employer responsibilities and liabilities 832 with respect to a worksite employee, pursuant to the alternate 833 834 employer organization agreement. (L) The use of a client employer's tax identification 835 number for federal payroll tax purposes as required under 836 division (C) of this section shall not be construed to absolve 837 the alternate employer organization of any responsibilities or 838 liabilities applicable to an alternative—alternate employer 839 organization, including those under federal law. 840 Sec. 4133.07. (A) Not later than thirty days after its 841 formation, an alternate employer organization operating in this 842 state shall register with the administrator of workers' 843 compensation on forms provided by the administrator. Following 844 initial registration, each alternate employer organization shall 845 846 register with the administrator annually on or before the thirty-first day of December. 847 848 (B) Initial registration and each annual registration renewal shall include all of the following: 849 (1) A list of each of the alternate employer 850 organization's client employers current as of the date of 851 registration for purposes of initial registration or current as 852 of the date of annual registration renewal, or within fourteen 853 days of adding or releasing a client, that includes the client 854

employer's name, address, federal tax identification number, and

bureau of workers' compensation risk number;	856
(2) A fee as determined by the administrator;	857
(3) The name or names under which the alternate employer	858
organization conducts business;	859
(4) The address of the alternate employer organization's	860
principal place of business and the address of each office it	861
maintains in this state;	862
(5) The alternate employer organization's taxpayer or	863
employer identification number;	864
(6) A list of each state in which the alternate employer	865
organization has operated in the preceding five years, and the	866
name, corresponding with each state, under which the alternate	867
employer organization operated in each state, including any	868
alternative names, names of predecessors, and if known,	869
successor business entities;	870
(7) The most recent financial statement prepared and	871
audited pursuant to division (B) of section 4133.08 of the	872
Revised Code;	873
(8) A bond or letter of credit in accordance with division	874
(D)(1) of this section;	875
(9) An attestation of the accuracy of the data submissions	876
from the chief executive officer, president, or other individual	877
who serves as the controlling person of the alternate employer	878
organization.	879
(C) Upon terms and for periods that the administrator	880
considers appropriate, the administrator may issue a limited	881
registration to an alternate employer organization that provides	882
all of the following items:	883

(1) A properly executed request for limited registration	884
on a form provided by the administrator;	885
(2) All information and materials required for	886
registration in divisions (B)(1) to (6) of this section;	887
(3) Information and documentation necessary to show that	888
the alternate employer organization satisfies all of the	889
following criteria:	890
(a) It is domiciled outside of this state.	891
(b) It is licensed or registered as an alternate employer	892
organization in another state.	893
(c) It does not maintain an office in this state.	894
(d) It does not participate in direct solicitations for	895
client employers located or domiciled in this state.	896
(e) It has fifty or fewer worksite employees employed or	897
domiciled in this state on any given day.	898
(D)(1) An alternate employer organization shall provide	899
security in the form of a bond or letter of credit assignable to	900
the Ohio bureau of workers' compensation in an amount necessary	901
to meet the financial obligations of the alternate employer	902
organization pursuant to this chapter and Chapters 4121. and	903
4123. of the Revised Code. The administrator shall determine the	904
amount of the bond letter of credit required under this division	905
for each registrant, which shall be at least one million	906
dollars.	907
(2) An alternate employer organization may appeal the	908
amount of the security required pursuant to rules adopted under	909
division (D)(1) of this section in accordance with section	910
4123.291 of the Revised Code.	911

(3) An alternate employer organization shall pay premiums 912 and assessments for purposes of Chapters 4121. and 4123. of the 913 Revised Code on a monthly basis pursuant to division (A) of 914 section 4123.35 of the Revised Code. 915 (E) Notwithstanding division (D) of this section, an 916 alternate employer organization that qualifies for self-917 insurance or retrospective rating under section 4123.29 or 918 4123.35 of the Revised Code shall abide by the financial 919 disclosure and security requirements pursuant to those sections 920 921 and the rules adopted under those sections in place of the 922 requirements specified in division (D) of this section or specified in rules adopted pursuant to that division. 923 (F) Except to the extent necessary for the administrator 924 to administer the statutory duties of the administrator and for 925 employees of the state to perform their official duties, all 926 records, reports, client lists, and other information obtained 927 from an alternate employer organization under divisions (A), 928 (B), and (C) of this section are confidential and shall be 929 considered trade secrets and shall not be published or open to 930 931 public inspection. 932 (G) The list described in division (B)(1) of this section shall be considered a trade secret. 933 (H) The administrator shall establish the fee described in 934 division (B)(2) of this section in an amount that does not 935 exceed the cost of the administration of the initial and renewal 936 registration process. 937 (I) A financial statement required under division (B)(7) 938 of this section for initial registration shall be the most 939

recent financial statement of the alternate employer

organization and shall not be older than thirteen months. For	941
each registration renewal, the alternate employer organization	942
shall file the required financial statement within one hundred	943
eighty days after the end of the alternate employer	944
organization's entity's fiscal year. An alternate employer	945
organization may apply to the administrator for an extension	946
beyond that time if the alternate employer organization provides	947
the administrator with a letter from the alternate employer	948
organization's auditor stating the reason for delay and the	949
anticipated completion date.	950
(J) Multiple, unrelated alternate employer organizations	951
shall not combine together for purposes of obtaining workers'	952
compensation coverage or for forming any type of self-insurance	953
arrangement available under this chapter.	954
(K) An alternate employer organization may not own or co-	955
own an affiliated professional employer organization or	956
alternate employer organization.	957
(L) The administrator shall maintain a list of alternate	958
employer organizations registered under this section that is	959
readily available to the public by electronic or other means.	960
(M)(1) An alternate employer organization may assist a	961
client employer in procuring a health benefit plan as a broker	962
or otherwise, but shall not act as the employer or sponsor of a	963
health benefit plan.	964
(2) As used in this division:	965
(a) "Health benefit plan" means a policy, contract,	966
certificate, agreement, or other program offered to provide,	967
deliver, arrange for, pay for, or reimburse any of the costs of	968

health care services, including benefit plans marketed in the

individual or group market by all associations, whether bona	970
fide or non-bona fide. "Health benefit plan" also means a	971
limited benefit plan.	972
(b) "Health care corriged" has the came meaning as in	973
(b) "Health care services" has the same meaning as in	
section 3922.01 of the Revised Code.	974
Sec. 4133.08. (A) An alternate employer organization shall	975
maintain positive working capital at initial or annual	976
registration, as reflected in the financial statements submitted	977
to the bureau of workers' compensation. If a deficit in working	978
capital is reflected in the financial statements submitted to	979
the bureau, the alternate employer organization shall submit to	980
the administrator of workers' compensation a quarterly financial	981
statement for each calendar quarter during which there is a	982
deficit in working capital, accompanied by an attestation of the	983
chief executive officer, president, or other individual who	984
serves as the controlling person of the alternate employer	985
organization that all wages, taxes, workers' compensation	986
premiums, and employee benefits have been paid by the alternate	987
employer organization. The bond or letter of credit required	988
under division (D)(1) of section 4133.07 of the Revised Code	989
shall be held by a depository designated by the administrator	990
and shall secure payment by the alternate employer organization	991
of all taxes, wages, benefits, or other entitlements due or	992
otherwise pertaining to worksite employees, if the alternate	993
employer organization does not make those payments when due.	994
(D) An alternate amplement angenization shall means a	005
(B) An alternate employer organization shall prepare	995
financial statements in accordance with generally accepted	996
accounting principles and submit them for registration and	997
registration renewal under section 4133.07 of the Revised Code.	998

The financial statements shall be audited by an independent

alternate public accountant authorized to practice in the	1000
jurisdiction in which that accountant is located.	1001
(1) The resulting report of the auditor shall not include	1002
either of the following:	1003
(a) A qualification or disclaimer of opinion as to	1004
adherence to generally accepted accounting principles;	1005
(b) A statement expressing substantial doubt about the	1006
ability of the alternate employer organization to continue as a	1007
going concern.	1008
(2) However, if an alternate employer organization does	1009
not have at least twelve months of operating history on which to	1010
base financial statements, the financial statements shall be	1011
reviewed by a certified public accountant.	1012
(3) Notwithstanding division (B)(1)(a) of this section, if	1013
an alternate employer organization is a subsidiary or is related	1014
to a variable interest entity, the alternate employer	1015
organization or alternate employer organization entity may	1016
submit financial statements of the alternate employer	1017
organization.	1018
(C) The bureau shall deny initial or annual registration	1019
to an applicant that does not meet the requirements of this	1020
section.	1021
Section 7. That existing sections 4121.43, 4123.57,	1022
4123.58, 4123.85, 4123.88, 4133.03, 4133.07, and 4133.08 of the	1023
Revised Code are hereby repealed.	1024
Section 8. Section 4123.85 of the Revised Code, as amended	1025
by this act, applies to all claims pursuant to Chapters 4121.,	1026
4123., 4127., and 4131. of the Revised Code arising on or after	1027
,, and lear of the follow code arising on of area	1027

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the effective date of this section.	1028
Sections 4123.57 and 4123.58 of the Revised Code, as	1029
amended by this act, apply to claims pending on or arising on or	1030
after the effective date of this section.	1031