FIRST REGULAR SESSION

SENATE BILL NO. 430

96TH GENERAL ASSEMBLY

INTRODUCED BY SENATOR MAYER.

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1897S.01I

TERRY L. SPIELER, Secretary.

AN ACT

To repeal sections 287.120, 287.140, 287.143, 287.149, 287.210, 287.220, 287.690, and 287.715, RSMo, and to enact in lieu thereof nine new sections relating to workers' compensation, with an emergency clause.

Be it enacted by the General Assembly of the State of Missouri, as follows:

Section A. Sections 287.120, 287.140, 287.143, 287.149, 287.210, 287.220,
287.690, and 287.715, RSMo, are repealed and nine new sections enacted in lieu
thereof, to be known as sections 287.120, 287.140, 287.143, 287.149, 287.210,
287.220, 287.690, 287.715, and 287.890, to read as follows:

287.120. 1. Every employer subject to the provisions of this chapter shall be liable, irrespective of negligence, to furnish compensation under the provisions of this chapter for personal injury or death of the employee by accident arising out of and in the course of the employee's employment, and shall be released from all other liability therefor whatsoever, whether to the employee or any other person. The term "accident" as used in this section shall include, but not be limited to, injury or death of the employee caused by the unprovoked violence or assault against the employee by any person.

9 2. The rights and remedies herein granted to an employee shall exclude 10 all other rights and remedies of the employee, his wife, her husband, parents, 11 personal representatives, dependents, heirs or next kin, at common law or 12 otherwise, on account of such accidental injury or death, except such rights and 13 remedies as are not provided for by this chapter.

3. No compensation shall be allowed under this chapter for the injury or
death due to the employee's intentional self-inflicted injury, but the burden of
proof of intentional self-inflicted injury shall be on the employer or the person

17 contesting the claim for allowance.

4. Where the injury is caused by the failure of the employer to comply with any statute in this state or any lawful order of the division or the commission, the compensation and death benefit provided for under this chapter shall be increased fifteen percent.

225. Where the injury is caused by the failure of the employee to use safety 23devices where provided by the employer, or from the employee's failure to obey any reasonable rule adopted by the employer for the safety of employees, the 2425compensation and death benefit provided for herein shall be reduced at least twenty-five but not more than fifty percent; provided, that it is shown that the 2627employee had actual knowledge of the rule so adopted by the employer; and provided, further, that the employer had, prior to the injury, made a reasonable 2829effort to cause his or her employees to use the safety device or devices and to obey 30 or follow the rule so adopted for the safety of the employees.

6. (1) Where the employee fails to obey any rule or policy adopted by the employer relating to a drug-free workplace or the use of alcohol or nonprescribed controlled drugs in the workplace, the compensation and death benefit provided for herein shall be reduced fifty percent if the injury was sustained in conjunction with the use of alcohol or nonprescribed controlled drugs.

36 (2) If, however, the use of alcohol or nonprescribed controlled drugs in
37 violation of the employer's rule or policy is the proximate cause of the injury, then
38 the benefits or compensation otherwise payable under this chapter for death or
39 disability shall be forfeited.

40(3) The voluntary use of alcohol to the percentage of blood alcohol sufficient under Missouri law to constitute legal intoxication shall give rise to a 41rebuttable presumption that the voluntary use of alcohol under such 42circumstances was the proximate cause of the injury. A preponderance of the 43evidence standard shall apply to rebut such presumption. An employee's refusal 44to take a test for alcohol or a nonprescribed controlled substance, as defined by 45section 195.010, at the request of the employer shall result in the forfeiture of 46benefits under this chapter if the employer had sufficient cause to suspect use of 4748alcohol or a nonprescribed controlled substance by the claimant or if the 49employer's policy clearly authorizes post-injury testing.

50 7. Where the employee's participation in a recreational activity or 51 program is the prevailing cause of the injury, benefits or compensation otherwise 52 payable under this chapter for death or disability shall be forfeited regardless that the employer may have promoted, sponsored or supported the recreational
activity or program, expressly or impliedly, in whole or in part. The forfeiture of
benefits or compensation shall not apply when:

56 (1) The employee was directly ordered by the employer to participate in57 such recreational activity or program;

58 (2) The employee was paid wages or travel expenses while participating59 in such recreational activity or program; or

60 (3) The injury from such recreational activity or program occurs on the 61 employer's premises due to an unsafe condition and the employer had actual 62 knowledge of the employee's participation in the recreational activity or program 63 and of the unsafe condition of the premises and failed to either curtail the 64 recreational activity or program or cure the unsafe condition.

8. Mental injury resulting from work-related stress does not arise out of
and in the course of the employment, unless it is demonstrated that the stress is
work related and was extraordinary and unusual. The amount of work stress
shall be measured by objective standards and actual events.

9. A mental injury is not considered to arise out of and in the course of
the employment if it resulted from any disciplinary action, work evaluation, job
transfer, layoff, demotion, termination or any similar action taken in good faith
by the employer.

The ability of a firefighter to receive benefits for psychological stress
under section 287.067 shall not be diminished by the provisions of subsections 8
and 9 of this section.

11. If an employee who is receiving compensation under this chapter becomes incarcerated, such compensation shall be suspended for the duration of the incarceration.

To be eligible to receive compensation under this chapter, an
employee must be entitled to legally work in the United States.

287.140. 1. In addition to all other compensation paid to the employee under this section, the employee shall receive and the employer shall provide such medical, surgical, chiropractic, and hospital treatment, including nursing, custodial, ambulance and medicines, as may reasonably be required after the injury or disability, to cure and relieve from the effects of the injury. If the employee desires, he shall have the right to select his own physician, surgeon, or other such requirement at his own expense. Where the requirements are furnished by a public hospital or other institution, payment therefor shall be

made to the proper authorities. Regardless of whether the health care provider 9 10 is selected by the employer or is selected by the employee at the employee's expense, the health care provider shall have the affirmative duty to communicate 11 12fully with the employee regarding the nature of the employee's injury and recommended treatment exclusive of any evaluation for a permanent disability 1314rating. Failure to perform such duty to communicate shall constitute a disciplinary violation by the provider subject to the provisions of chapter 1516620. When an employee is required to submit to medical examinations or 17necessary medical treatment at a place outside of the local or metropolitan area from the employee's principal place of employment, the employer [or], its insurer, 18or the second injury fund shall advance or reimburse the employee for all 1920necessary and reasonable expenses; except that an injured employee who resides outside the state of Missouri and who is employed by an employer located in 2122Missouri shall have the option of selecting the location of services provided in this section either at a location within one hundred miles of the injured employee's 23residence, place of injury or place of hire by the employer. The choice of provider 24within the location selected shall continue to be made by the employer. In case 25of a medical examination if a dispute arises as to what expenses shall be paid by 26the employer, the matter shall be presented to the legal advisor, the 2728administrative law judge or the commission, who shall set the sum to be paid and 29same shall be paid by the employer prior to the medical examination. In no 30 event, however, shall the employer [or], its insurer, or the second injury fund 31be required to pay transportation costs for a greater distance than two hundred 32fifty miles each way from place of treatment.

2. If it be shown to the division or the commission that the requirements are being furnished in such manner that there is reasonable ground for believing that the life, health, or recovery of the employee is endangered thereby, the division or the commission may order a change in the physician, surgeon, hospital or other requirement.

38 3. All fees and charges under this chapter shall be fair and reasonable, 39 shall be subject to regulation by the division or the commission, or the board of 40 rehabilitation in rehabilitation cases. A health care provider shall not charge a 41 fee for treatment and care which is governed by the provisions of this chapter 42 greater than the usual and customary fee the provider receives for the same 43 treatment or service when the payor for such treatment or service is a private 44 individual or a private health insurance carrier. The division or the commission, or the board of rehabilitation in rehabilitation cases, shall also have jurisdiction
to hear and determine all disputes as to such charges. A health care provider is
bound by the determination upon the reasonableness of health care bills.

48 4. The division shall, by regulation, establish methods to resolve disputes49 concerning the reasonableness of medical charges, services, or aids.

50 This regulation shall govern resolution of disputes between employers and 51 medical providers over fees charged, whether or not paid, and shall be in lieu of 52 any other administrative procedure under this chapter. The employee shall not 53 be a party to a dispute over medical charges, nor shall the employee's recovery 54 in any way be jeopardized because of such dispute.

55 5. No compensation shall be payable for the death or disability of an 56 employee, if and insofar as the death or disability may be caused, continued or 57 aggravated by any unreasonable refusal to submit to any medical or surgical 58 treatment or operation, the risk of which is, in the opinion of the division or the 59 commission, inconsiderable in view of the seriousness of the injury. If the 60 employee dies as a result of an operation made necessary by the injury, the death 61 shall be deemed to be caused by the injury.

6. The testimony of any physician or chiropractic physician who treated
the employee shall be admissible in evidence in any proceedings for compensation
under this chapter, subject to all of the provisions of section 287.210.

7. Every hospital or other person furnishing the employee with medical aid shall permit its record to be copied by and shall furnish full information to the division or the commission, the employer, the employee or his dependents and any other party to any proceedings for compensation under this chapter, and certified copies of the records shall be admissible in evidence in any such proceedings.

8. The employer may be required by the division or the commission to 71furnish an injured employee with artificial legs, arms, hands, surgical orthopedic 7273joints, or eyes, or braces, as needed, for life whenever the division or the 74commission shall find that the injured employee may be partially or wholly relieved of the effects of a permanent injury by the use thereof. The director of 7576the division shall establish a procedure whereby a claim for compensation may be reactivated after settlement of such claim is completed. The claim shall be 77 reactivated only after the claimant can show good cause for the reactivation of 78this claim and the claim shall be made only for the payment of medical 79procedures involving life-threatening surgical procedures or if the claimant 80

81 requires the use of a new, or the modification, alteration or exchange of an 82 existing, prosthetic device. For the purpose of this subsection, "life threatening" 83 shall mean a situation or condition which, if not treated immediately, will likely 84 result in the death of the injured worker.

9. Nothing in this chapter shall prevent an employee being provided
treatment for his injuries by prayer or spiritual means if the employer does not
object to the treatment.

10. The employer shall have the right to select the licensed treating physician, surgeon, chiropractic physician, or other health care provider; provided, however, that such physicians, surgeons or other health care providers shall offer only those services authorized within the scope of their licenses. For the purpose of this subsection, subsection 2 of section 287.030 shall not apply.

93 11. Any physician or other health care provider who orders, directs or 94 refers a patient for treatment, testing, therapy or rehabilitation at any institution 95 or facility shall, at or prior to the time of the referral, disclose in writing if such 96 health care provider, any of his partners or his employer has a financial interest 97 in the institution or facility to which the patient is being referred, to the 98 following:

99 (1) The patient;

100 (2) The employer of the patient with workers' compensation liability for101 the injury or disease being treated;

102 (3) The workers' compensation insurer of such employer; and

103 (4) The workers' compensation adjusting company for such insurer.

104 12. Violation of subsection 11 of this section is a class A misdemeanor.

13. (1) No hospital, physician or other health care provider, other than 105a hospital, physician or health care provider selected by the employee at his own 106expense pursuant to subsection 1 of this section, shall bill or attempt to collect 107 any fee or any portion of a fee for services rendered to an employee due to a 108 109 work-related injury or report to any credit reporting agency any failure of the employee to make such payment, when an injury covered by this chapter has 110occurred and such hospital, physician or health care provider has received actual 111 112notice given in writing by the employee, the employer or the employer's insurer. Actual notice shall be deemed received by the hospital, physician or 113health care provider five days after mailing by certified mail by the employer or 114insurer to the hospital, physician or health care provider. 115

116 (2) The notice shall include:

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117 (*	a)	The	name	of the	employer;
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118 (b) The name of the insurer, if known;

119 (c) The name of the employee receiving the services;

- 120 (d) The general nature of the injury, if known; and
- 121 (e) Where a claim has been filed, the claim number, if known.

122(3) When an injury is found to be noncompensable under this chapter, the 123hospital, physician or other health care provider shall be entitled to pursue the employee for any unpaid portion of the fee or other charges for authorized 124125services provided to the employee. Any applicable statute of limitations for an 126action for such fees or other charges shall be tolled from the time notice is given 127to the division by a hospital, physician or other health care provider pursuant to subdivision (6) of this subsection, until a determination of noncompensability in 128 129regard to the injury which is the basis of such services is made, or in the event 130 there is an appeal to the labor and industrial relations commission, until a 131decision is rendered by that commission.

(4) If a hospital, physician or other health care provider or a debt collector on behalf of such hospital, physician or other health care provider pursues any action to collect from an employee after such notice is properly given, the employee shall have a cause of action against the hospital, physician or other health care provider for actual damages sustained plus up to one thousand dollars in additional damages, costs and reasonable attorney's fees.

(5) If an employer or insurer fails to make payment for authorized services provided to the employee by a hospital, physician or other health care provider pursuant to this chapter, the hospital, physician or other health care provider may proceed pursuant to subsection 4 of this section with a dispute against the employer or insurer for any fees or other charges for services provided.

(6) A hospital, physician or other health care provider whose services have 144145been authorized in advance by the employer or insurer may give notice to the division of any claim for fees or other charges for services provided for a 146work-related injury that is covered by this chapter, with copies of the notice to 147148the employee, employer and the employer's insurer. Where such notice has been 149filed, the administrative law judge may order direct payment from the proceeds 150of any settlement or award to the hospital, physician or other health care provider for such fees as are determined by the division. The notice shall be on 151152a form prescribed by the division.

SB 430

153 14. The employer may allow or require an employee to use any of the 154 employee's accumulated paid leave, personal leave, or medical or sick leave to 155 attend to medical treatment, physical rehabilitation, or medical evaluations 156 during work time. The intent of this subsection is to specifically supercede and 157 abrogate any case law that contradicts the express language of this section.

287.143. As a guide to the interpretation and application of sections
287.144 to 287.149, sections 287.144 to 287.149 shall not be construed to require
the employer to provide vocational rehabilitation to a severely injured employee.
An employee shall submit to appropriate vocational testing and a vocational
rehabilitation assessment scheduled by an employer [or], its insurer, or the
second injury fund if the employer has not obtained a vocational
rehabilitation assessment.

287.149. 1. Temporary total disability or temporary partial disability2 benefits shall be paid throughout the rehabilitative process.

3 2. The permanency of the employee's disability under sections 287.170 to
4 287.200 shall not be established, determined or adjudicated while the employee
5 is participating in rehabilitation services.

6 3. Refusal of the employee to accept rehabilitation services or submit to 7 a vocational rehabilitation assessment as deemed necessary by the employer or 8 second injury fund shall result in a fifty percent reduction in all disability 9 payments to an employee, including temporary partial disability benefits paid 10 pursuant to section 287.180, for each week of the period of refusal.

287.210. 1. After an employee has received an injury he shall from time to time thereafter during disability submit to reasonable medical examination at 2the request of the employer, [his] the employer's insurer, the commission, the 3 division [or], an administrative law judge, or the second injury fund if the 4 employer has not obtained a medical examination report, the time and 5 place of which shall be fixed with due regard to the convenience of the employee 6 7and his physical condition and ability to attend. The employee may have his own physician present, and if the employee refuses to submit to the examination, or 8 in any way obstructs it, his right to compensation shall be forfeited during such 9 10 period unless in the opinion of the commission the circumstances justify the 11 refusal or obstruction.

The commission, the division or administrative law judge shall, when
 deemed necessary, appoint a duly qualified impartial physician to examine the
 injured employee, and any physician so chosen, if he accepts the appointment,

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shall promptly make the examination requested and make a complete medical report to the commission or the division in such duplication as to provide all parties with copies thereof. The physician's fee shall be fair and reasonable, as provided in subsection 3 of section 287.140, and the fee and other reasonable costs of the impartial examination may be paid as other costs under this chapter. If all the parties shall have had reasonable access thereto, the report of the physician shall be admissible in evidence.

223. The testimony of any physician who treated or examined the injured 23employee shall be admissible in evidence in any proceedings for compensation under this chapter, but only if the medical report of the physician has been made 2425available to all parties as in this section provided. Immediately upon receipt of notice from the division or the commission setting a date for hearing of a case in 26which the nature and extent of an employee's disability is to be determined, the 2728parties or their attorneys shall arrange, without charge or costs, each to the other, for an exchange of all medical reports, including those made both by 29treating and examining physician or physicians, to the end that the parties may 30 be commonly informed of all medical findings and opinions. The exchange of 31medical reports shall be made at least seven days before the date set for the 32hearing and failure of any party to comply may be grounds for asking for and 33 34receiving a continuance, upon proper showing by the party to whom the medical 35reports were not furnished. If any party fails or refuses to furnish the opposing party with the medical report of the treating or examining physician at least 36 37 seven days before such physician's deposition or personal testimony at the hearing, as in this section provided, upon the objection of the party who was not 38provided with the medical report, the physician shall not be permitted to testify 39 at that hearing or by medical deposition. 40

4. Upon request, an administrative law judge, the division, or the42 commission shall be provided with a copy of any medical report.

435. As used in this chapter the terms "physician's report" and "medical report" mean the report of any physician made on any printed form authorized 4445by the division or the commission or any complete medical report. As used in this 46chapter the term "complete medical report" means the report of a physician giving the physician's qualifications and the patient's history, complaints, details of the 47findings of any and all laboratory, X-ray and all other technical examinations, 48diagnosis, prognosis, nature of disability, if any, and an estimate of the 49percentage of permanent partial disability, if any. An element or elements of a 50

51 complete medical report may be met by the physician's records.

52 6. Upon the request of a party, the physician or physicians who treated 53 or are treating the injured employee shall be required to furnish to the parties a 54 rating and complete medical report on the injured employee, at the expense of the 55 party selecting the physician, along with a complete copy of the physician's 56 clinical record including copies of any records and reports received from other 57 health care providers.

587. The testimony of a treating or examining physician may be submitted 59in evidence on the issues in controversy by a complete medical report and shall be admissible without other foundational evidence subject to compliance with the 60 following procedures. The party intending to submit a complete medical report 61in evidence shall give notice at least sixty days prior to the hearing to all parties 6263and shall provide reasonable opportunity to all parties to obtain cross-examination testimony of the physician by deposition. The notice shall 64include a copy of the report and all the clinical and treatment records of the 65physician including copies of all records and reports received by the physician 66 from other health care providers. The party offering the report must make the 67physician available for cross-examination testimony by deposition not later than 68 seven days before the matter is set for hearing, and each cross-examiner shall 69 70compensate the physician for the portion of testimony obtained in an amount not 71to exceed a rate of reasonable compensation taking into consideration the 72specialty practiced by the physician. Cross-examination testimony shall not bind 73the cross-examining party. Any testimony obtained by the offering party shall be at that party's expense on a proportional basis, including the deposition fee of the 74physician. Upon request of any party, the party offering a complete medical 75report in evidence must also make available copies of X rays or other diagnostic 76studies obtained by or relied upon by the physician. Within ten days after receipt 7778of such notice a party shall dispute whether a report meets the requirements of 79a complete medical report by providing written objections to the offering party 80 stating the grounds for the dispute, and at the request of any party, the 81 administrative law judge shall rule upon such objections upon pretrial hearing 82whether the report meets the requirements of a complete medical report and upon 83 the admissibility of the report or portions thereof. If no objections are filed the report is admissible, and any objections thereto are deemed waived. Nothing 84 herein shall prevent the parties from agreeing to admit medical reports or records 85by consent. [The provisions of this subsection shall not apply to claims against 86

87 the second injury fund.]

88 8. Certified copies of the proceedings before any coroner holding an 89 inquest over the body of any employee receiving an injury in the course of his 90 employment resulting in death shall be admissible in evidence in any proceedings 91 for compensation under this chapter, and it shall be the duty of the coroner to 92 give notice of the inquest to the employer and the dependents of the deceased 93 employee, who shall have the right to cross-examine the witness.

94 9. The division or the commission may in its discretion in extraordinary
95 cases order a postmortem examination and for that purpose may also order a body
96 exhumed.

287.220. 1. There is hereby created in the state treasury a special fund to be known as the "Second Injury Fund" created exclusively for $\mathbf{2}$ 3 the purposes as in this section provided and for special weekly benefits in rehabilitation cases as provided in section 287.141. Maintenance of 4 $\mathbf{5}$ the second injury fund shall be as provided by section 287.710. The state treasurer shall be the custodian of the second injury fund which 6 shall be deposited the same as are state funds and any interest 7 accruing thereon shall be added thereto. The fund shall be subject to 8 audit the same as state funds and accounts and shall be protected by 9 the general bond given by the state treasurer. Upon the requisition of 10 the director of the division of workers' compensation, warrants on the 11 state treasurer for the payment of all amounts payable for 12compensation and benefits out of the second injury fund shall be 1314issued.

2. All claims against the second injury fund for injuries 15occurring prior to the effective date of this section shall be 16compensated as provided in this subsection. All cases of permanent 1718disability where there has been previous disability shall be compensated as 19herein provided. Compensation shall be computed on the basis of the average 20earnings at the time of the last injury. If any employee who has a preexisting permanent partial disability whether from compensable injury or otherwise, of 2122such seriousness as to constitute a hindrance or obstacle to employment or to 23obtaining reemployment if the employee becomes unemployed, and the preexisting permanent partial disability, if a body as a whole injury, equals a minimum of 2425fifty weeks of compensation or, if a major extremity injury only, equals a minimum of fifteen percent permanent partial disability, according to the medical 26

27standards that are used in determining such compensation, receives a subsequent 28compensable injury resulting in additional permanent partial disability so that the degree or percentage of disability, in an amount equal to a minimum of fifty 2930 weeks compensation, if a body as a whole injury or, if a major extremity injury only, equals a minimum of fifteen percent permanent partial disability, caused 3132by the combined disabilities is substantially greater than that which would have 33resulted from the last injury, considered alone and of itself, and if the employee 34is entitled to receive compensation on the basis of the combined disabilities, the 35employer at the time of the last injury shall be liable only for the degree or 36 percentage of disability which would have resulted from the last injury had there 37been no preexisting disability. After the compensation liability of the employer for the last injury, considered alone, has been determined by an administrative 38law judge or the commission, the degree or percentage of employee's disability 3940that is attributable to all injuries or conditions existing at the time the last injury was sustained shall then be determined by that administrative law judge or by 41the commission and the degree or percentage of disability which existed prior to 42the last injury plus the disability resulting from the last injury, if any, considered 43alone, shall be deducted from the combined disability, and compensation for the 44 balance, if any, shall be paid out of a special fund known as the second injury 4546fund, hereinafter provided for. If the previous disability or disabilities, whether 47from compensable injury or otherwise, and the last injury together result in total and permanent disability, the minimum standards under this subsection for a 4849body as a whole injury or a major extremity injury shall not apply and the employer at the time of the last injury shall be liable only for the disability 50resulting from the last injury considered alone and of itself; except that if the 51compensation for which the employer at the time of the last injury is liable is less 52than the compensation provided in this chapter for permanent total disability, 53then in addition to the compensation for which the employer is liable and after 54the completion of payment of the compensation by the employer, the employee 5556shall be paid the remainder of the compensation that would be due for permanent total disability under section 287.200 out of [a special fund known as the "Second 5758Injury Fund" hereby created exclusively for the purposes as in this section 59provided and for special weekly benefits in rehabilitation cases as provided in 60 section 287.141. Maintenance of the second injury fund shall be as provided by section 287.710. The state treasurer shall be the custodian of the second injury 61fund which shall be deposited the same as are state funds and any interest 62

63 accruing thereon shall be added thereto. The fund shall be subject to audit the 64 same as state funds and accounts and shall be protected by the general bond 65 given by the state treasurer. Upon the requisition of the director of the division 66 of workers' compensation, warrants on the state treasurer for the payment of all 67 amounts payable for compensation and benefits out of the second injury fund 68 shall be issued.

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2.] the second injury fund.

3. All claims against the second injury fund for injuries occurring after the effective date of this section shall be compensated as provided in this subsection. No claims for permanent partial disability occurring after the effective date of this section shall be filed against the second injury fund. Claims for disability against the second injury fund shall only be compensable where:

(1) An employee has a medically documented preexisting
permanent disability as a direct result of active military duty or as a
result of a preexisting permanent partial disability from a compensable
injury as defined in section 287.020;

80 (2) Such preexisting disability equals a minimum of fifty weeks
81 of compensation according to the medical standards that are used in
82 determining such compensation; and

(3) Such employee thereafter sustains a subsequent compensable
work-related injury that, when combined with the preexisting
disability, as set forth in subsection 1 and 2 of this section, results in
a permanent total disability as defined under this chapter.

87 When an employee is entitled to compensation as provided in this subsection, the employer at the time of the last work-related injury 88 shall only be liable for the disability resulting from the subsequent 89 work-related injury considered alone and of itself. The second injury 90 91fund shall be liable for the remainder of the compensation that would be due to the employee for the permanent total disability under section 9293 287.200. Compensation for benefits payable under this subsection shall be based on the employee's compensation rate calculated under section 94 287.250 as of the date of the injury. 95

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4. In all cases in which a recovery against the second injury fund is
97 sought for permanent partial disability, permanent total disability, or death, the
98 state treasurer as custodian thereof shall be named as a party, and shall be
99 entitled to defend against the claim.

100 (1) The state treasurer, with the advice and consent of the attorney 101general of Missouri, may enter into compromise settlements as contemplated by section 287.390 in any amount not to exceed the total sum of one hundred 102103weeks of the employee's total average weekly wage as of the date of the injury, or agreed statements of fact that would affect the second injury 104105fund. [All awards for permanent partial disability, permanent total disability, 106 or death affecting the second injury fund shall be subject to the provisions of this chapter governing review and appeal.] 107

108 (2) The state treasurer, with the advice and consent of the 109 attorney general of Missouri and with the express authorization of the 110 Workers' Compensation Council, may enter into compromise 111 settlements as contemplated by section 287.390 in any amount in excess 112 of the total sum of one hundred weeks of the employee's total average 113 weekly wage as of the date of the injury.

(3) The state treasurer, with the advice and consent of the attorney general of Missouri and with the express authorization of the Workers' Compensation Council, may enter into compromise settlements with dependents of claimants, whether finally adjudicated or not, arising from the Missouri Supreme Court's decision in Schoemehl v. Treasurer of Missouri, 217 S.W.3d 900 (Mo. 2007).

120(4) For all claims filed against the second injury fund on or after July 1, 1211994, the attorney general shall use assistant attorneys general except in circumstances where an actual or potential conflict of interest exists, to provide 122123legal services as may be required in all claims made for recovery against the fund. Any legal expenses incurred by the attorney general's office in the handling 124of such claims, including, but not limited to, medical examination fees incurred 125126under sections 287.210 and the expenses provided for under section 127287.140, expert witness fees, court reporter expenses, travel costs, and related 128legal expenses shall be paid by the fund. Effective July 1, 1993, the payment of such legal expenses shall be contingent upon annual appropriations made by the 129general assembly, from the fund, to the attorney general's office for this specific 130131purpose.

[3.] 5. If more than one injury in the same employment causes concurrent
temporary disabilities, compensation shall be payable only for the longest and
largest paying disability.

135 [4.] 6. If more than one injury in the same employment causes concurrent

and consecutive permanent partial disability, compensation payments for eachsubsequent disability shall not begin until the end of the compensation period ofthe prior disability.

139[5.] 7. If an employer fails to insure or self-insure as required in section 140287.280, funds from the second injury fund may be withdrawn to cover the fair, reasonable, and necessary expenses to cure and relieve the effects of the injury 141142or disability of an injured employee in the employ of an uninsured employer 143consistent with subsection 3 of section 287.140, or in the case of death of 144an employee in the employ of an uninsured employer, funds from the second injury fund may be withdrawn to cover fair, reasonable, and necessary expenses 145146in the manner required in sections 287.240 and 287.241. In defense of claims arising under this subsection, the treasurer of the state of Missouri, as custodian 147of the second injury fund, shall have the same defenses to such claims as would 148149the uninsured employer. Any funds received by the employee or the employee's dependents, through civil or other action, must go towards reimbursement of the 150second injury fund, for all payments made to the employee, the employee's 151152dependents, or paid on the employee's behalf, from the second injury fund pursuant to this subsection. The office of the attorney general of the state of 153Missouri shall bring suit in the circuit court of the county in which the accident 154155occurred against any employer not covered by this chapter as required in section 156287.280.

[6.] 8. Every three years the second injury fund shall have an actuarial study made to determine the solvency of the fund, appropriate funding level of the fund, and forecasted expenditures from the fund. The first actuarial study shall be completed prior to July 1, [1988] 2012. The expenses of such actuarial studies shall be paid out of the fund for the support of the division of workers' compensation.

163 [7.] 9. The director of the division of workers' compensation shall 164 maintain the financial data and records concerning the fund for the support of the 165 division of workers' compensation and the second injury fund. The division shall 166 also compile and report data on claims made pursuant to subsection 9 of this 167 section. The attorney general shall provide all necessary information to the 168 division for this purpose.

169 [8.] 10. All claims for fees and expenses filed against the second injury170 fund and all records pertaining thereto shall be open to the public.

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[9.] 11. Any employee who at the time a compensable work-related injury

is sustained is employed by more than one employer, the employer for whom the 172173employee was working when the injury was sustained shall be responsible for wage loss benefits applicable only to the earnings in that employer's employment 174175and the injured employee shall be entitled to file a claim against the second injury fund for any additional wage loss benefits attributed to loss of earnings 176177from the employment or employments where the injury did not occur, up to the 178maximum weekly benefit less those benefits paid by the employer in whose employment the employee sustained the injury. The employee shall be entitled 179180to a total benefit based on the total average weekly wage of such employee computed according to subsection 8 of section 287.250. The employee shall not 181be entitled to a greater rate of compensation than allowed by law on the date of 182the injury. The employer for whom the employee was working where the injury 183was sustained shall be responsible for all medical costs incurred in regard to that 184185injury.

186 12. No compensation shall be payable from the second injury
187 fund if the employee elects to pursue compensation under the workers'
188 compensation law of another state with jurisdiction over the employees'
189 injury or accident or occupational disease.

19013. When an injured employee receives an award for permanent total disability but by the use of glasses, prosthetic appliances, or 191physical rehabilitation the employee is restored to his regular work or 192193its equivalent, the life payment shall be suspended during the time in which the employee is restored to his regular work or its 194 195equivalent. The employer and the division shall keep the file open in the case during the lifetime of any injured employee who has received 196197 an award of permanent total disability. In any case where the life 198payment is suspended under this subsection, the commission may at 199reasonable times review the case and either the employee or the 200employer may request an informal conference with the commission 201relative to the resumption of the employee's weekly life payment in the 202case.

14. Notwithstanding the requirements of section 287.470, the life payments to an injured employee made from the fund shall be suspended when the employee is able to obtain suitable gainful employment or be self-employed in view of the nature and severity of the injury. The division shall promulgate rules setting forth a 208 reasonable standard means test to determine if such employment209 warrants the suspension of benefits.

21015. Notwithstanding the requirements of section 287.470, the 211director may suspend, in whole or in part, the life payments to an injured employee made from the fund when the employee becomes 212213eligible to receive Social Security benefits. In no case shall the sum of the amount of monthly payments from the fund and the monthly Social 214215Security benefits attributable to the employee's injury, be less than the 216monthly life payments from the fund the employee has been receiving. 21716. All awards issued under this chapter affecting the second

injury fund shall be subject to the provisions of this chapter governing
review and appeal.

287.690. [1.] Prior to December 31, 1993, for the purpose of providing for the expense of administering this chapter [and for the purpose set out in 23 subsection 2 of this section], every person, partnership, association, corporation, 4 whether organized under the laws of this or any other state or country, the state of Missouri, including any of its departments, divisions, agencies, commissions, $\mathbf{5}$ and boards or any political subdivisions of the state who self-insure or hold 6 themselves out to be any part self-insured, company, mutual company, the parties 7 to any interindemnity contract, or other plan or scheme, and every other 8 insurance carrier, insuring employers in this state against liability for personal 9 10 injuries to their employees, or for death caused thereby, under this chapter, shall 11 pay, as provided in this chapter, tax upon the net deposits, net premiums or net 12assessments received, whether in cash or notes in this state, or on account of business done in this state, for such insurance in this state at the rate of two 1314percent in lieu of all [other] premium taxes on such net deposits, net premiums 15or net assessments, which amount of taxes shall be assessed and collected as herein provided. Except as provided in subsection 4 of section 287.715, 16 beginning October 31, 1993, and every year thereafter, the director of the division 17of workers' compensation shall estimate the amount of revenue required to 18administer this chapter and the **division** director shall determine the rate of tax 1920to be paid in the following calendar year pursuant to this section commencing with the calendar year beginning on January 1, 1994. If the balance of the fund 21[estimated to be] on hand on [December thirty-first] July first of the year each 22tax rate determination is made on October thirty-first is less than one 2324hundred ten percent of the previous year's expenses plus any additional revenue

25required due to new statutory requirements given to the division by the general 26assembly, then the **division** director shall impose a tax not to exceed two percent in lieu of all other taxes on net deposits, net premiums or net assessments, 2728rounded up to the nearest one-half of a percentage point, which amount of taxes shall be assessed and collected as herein provided. The net premium equivalent 2930 for individual self-insured employers and any group of political subdivisions of this state qualified to self-insure their liability pursuant to this chapter as 3132authorized by section 537.620 shall be based on average rate classifications 33calculated by the department of insurance, financial institutions and professional registration as taken from premium rates filed by the twenty insurance 34companies providing the greatest volume of workers' compensation insurance 35coverage in this state. For employers qualified to self-insure their liability 36 pursuant to this chapter, the rates filed by such group of employers in accordance 37with subsection 2 of section 287.280 shall be the net premium equivalent. Every 38entity required to pay the tax imposed pursuant to this section and section 39287.730 shall be notified by the division of workers' compensation within ten 40calendar days of the date of the determination of the rate of tax to be imposed for 41the following year. Net premiums, net deposits or net assessments are defined 42as gross premiums, gross deposits or gross assessments less canceled or returned 43

44 premiums, premium deposits or assessments and less dividends or savings,45 actually paid or credited.

46[2. After January 1, 1994, the director of the division shall make one or 47more loans to the Missouri employers mutual insurance company in an amount not to exceed an aggregate amount of five million dollars from the fund 48maintained to administer this chapter for start-up funding and initial 49capitalization of the company. The board of the company shall make application 50to the director for the loans, stating the amount to be loaned to the company. The 51loans shall be for a term of five years and, at the time the application for such 52loans is approved by the director, shall bear interest at the annual rate based on 53the rate for linked deposit loans as calculated by the state treasurer pursuant to 54section 30.758.] 55

287.715. 1. For the purpose of providing for revenue for the second injury fund, every authorized self-insurer, and every workers' compensation policyholder insured pursuant to the provisions of this chapter, shall be liable for payment of an annual surcharge in accordance with the provisions of this section. The annual surcharge imposed under this section shall apply to all workers' 19

6 compensation insurance policies and self-insurance coverages which are written 7 or renewed on or after April 26, 1988, including the state of Missouri, including 8 any of its departments, divisions, agencies, commissions, and boards or any 9 political subdivisions of the state who self-insure or hold themselves out to be any 10 part self-insured. Notwithstanding any law to the contrary, the surcharge 11 imposed pursuant to this section shall not apply to any reinsurance or 12 retrocessional transaction.

2. Except as provided in subsection 4 of this section, beginning 1314October 31, 2005, and each year thereafter, the director of the division of workers' compensation shall estimate the amount of benefits payable from the second 15injury fund during the following calendar year and shall calculate the total 16 amount of the annual surcharge to be imposed during the following calendar year 17upon all workers' compensation policyholders and authorized self-insurers. The 1819 amount of the annual surcharge percentage to be imposed upon each policyholder 20and self-insured for the following calendar year commencing with the calendar year beginning on January 1, 2006, shall be set at and calculated against a 2122percentage, not to exceed three percent, of the policyholder's or self-insured's workers' compensation net deposits, net premiums, or net assessments for the 23previous policy year, rounded up to the nearest one-half of a percentage point, 2425that shall generate, as nearly as possible, one hundred ten percent of the moneys 26to be paid from the second injury fund in the following calendar year, less any 27moneys contained in the fund at the end of the previous [calendar] fiscal year. 28All policyholders and self-insurers shall be notified by the division of workers' compensation within ten calendar days of the determination of the surcharge 29percent to be imposed for, and paid in, the following calendar year. The net 30 premium equivalent for individual self-insured employers and any group of 31political subdivisions of this state qualified to self-insure their liability pursuant 32to this chapter as authorized by section 537.620 shall be based on average rate 33 classifications calculated by the department of insurance, financial institutions 34and professional registration as taken from premium rates filed by the twenty 35insurance companies providing the greatest volume of workers' compensation 36 37 insurance coverage in this state. For employers qualified to self-insure their liability pursuant to this chapter, the rates filed by such group of employers in 3839 accordance with subsection 2 of section 287.280 shall be the net premium 40 equivalent.

3. Except as provided in subsection 4 of this section, the division

42director may advance [funds] moneys from the workers' compensation fund to 43the second injury fund if surcharge collections prove to be insufficient. The yearly total of moneys advanced by the division director from the 4445workers' compensation fund to the second injury fund shall not exceed thirty-three and one-third percent of the total amount of the annual 46surcharge as calculated in this section to be imposed in the year 47moneys are advanced to the second injury fund. Any [funds advanced] 4849yearly advance of moneys from the workers' compensation fund to the second injury fund [must] shall be reimbursed by the second injury fund no later than 5051December thirty-first of the **fifth** year following the advance. The surcharge shall 52be collected from policyholders by each insurer at the same time and in the same manner that the premium is collected, but no insurer or its agent shall be entitled 5354to any portion of the surcharge as a fee or commission for its collection. The surcharge is not subject to any taxes, licenses or fees. 55

564. The provisions of this subsection are designed to provide cash flow to the second injury fund in order to ensure solvency of the 57fund. Notwithstanding any other provision of law to the contrary, 58when the provisions of this subsection are in direct conflict with any 59other provision of this chapter, the provisions of this subsection shall 60 prevail. The provisions of each respective subdivision of this 61 subsection shall no longer have the force and effect of law after the 6263 contingent events described in such subdivision occur.

(1) Until such time that the division director finds that all 64 65workers' compensation administration fund advances collected pursuant to subdivision 2 of this subsection have been reimbursed as 66 67provided in subdivision 4 of this subsection, the total amount of money collected from the annual surcharge provided for in subsection 2 of this 68 section shall be equivalent or greater than the total amount of money 69 collected from the annual surcharge in 2010, which was forty million 7071eight hundred sixty-two thousand eighty-one dollars. Should additional 72moneys be required in excess of the annual surcharge provided for in subsection 2 of this section, the division director shall collect such 7374moneys from all workers' compensation policyholders and authorized 75self-insurers in accordance with the formula set forth in subsection 2 of this section. 76

(2) Until such time when moneys collected under the annual
surcharge provided for in subsection 2 of this section exceeds the total

79 annual expenditures of the second injury fund for two calendar 80 quarters, the workers' compensation administration fund tax and surcharge established in sections 287.690 and 287.716 shall be set at 81 four percent for the remaining third and fourth calendar quarters of 82 83 2011 rather than the percentage previously set by the director of the department of labor and industrial relations for 2011, and four percent 84 in 2012 and each year thereafter to provide advances as needed from 85the workers' compensation administration fund established in sections 86 87 287.690 and 287.716. However, if such tax and surcharge when combined with the money collected from the annual surcharge provided 88 for in subsection 2 of this section will not generate revenue of at least 89 one hundred million dollars in both 2012 and 2013, such rate shall be 90 adjusted accordingly to collect such revenue. Such moneys shall be 9192collected from policyholders by each insurer at the same time and in the same manner as the premium is collected, but no insurer or its 93 agent shall be entitled to any portion of the surcharge as a fee or 94 commission for its collection. The surcharge is not subject to any taxes, 95 96 licenses or fees.

97 (3) In 2011, the division director shall advance adequate moneys, 98 if needed, from the workers' compensation fund to the second injury 99 fund to ensure solvency of the second injury fund until additional 100 revenues are collected in accordance with subdivision 2 of this 101 subsection.

102(4) The division director shall keep an accounting of the total 103 advances authorized under subdivisions 2 and 3 of this subsection, which are provided to the second injury fund from the workers' 104compensation administration fund. Once moneys collected under the 105annual surcharge provided for in subsection 2 of this section exceeds 106 the total annual expenditures of the second injury fund for two 107 108 calendar quarters, the division director shall reimburse the workers' compensation administration fund in a prudent manner and reduce or 109 not collect the annual workers' compensation administration fund tax 110 and surcharge established in sections 287.690 and 287.716, depending 111 112on the needs of the workers' compensation administration fund, until such time when all advances to the second injury fund from the 113workers' compensation fund have been reimbursed. 114

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[3.] 5. All surcharge amounts imposed by this section shall be deposited

116 to the credit of the second injury fund.

117 [4.] 6. Such surcharge amounts shall be paid quarterly by insurers and self-insurers, and insurers shall pay the amounts not later than the thirtieth day 118 119 of the month following the end of the quarter in which the amount is received from policyholders. If the director of the division of workers' compensation fails 120121to calculate the surcharge by the thirty-first day of October of any year for the 122following year, any increase in the surcharge ultimately set by the director shall not be effective for any calendar quarter beginning less than sixty days from the 123124date the director makes such determination.

[5.] 7. If a policyholder or self-insured fails to make payment of the surcharge or an insurer fails to make timely transfer to the division of surcharges actually collected from policyholders, as required by this section, a penalty of one-half of one percent of the surcharge unpaid, or untransferred, shall be assessed against the liable policyholder, self-insured or insurer. Penalties assessed under this subsection shall be collected in a civil action by a summary proceeding brought by the director of the division of workers' compensation.

132 8. Funds collected under the provisions of this section shall be
133 the sole funding source of the second injury fund.

287.890. 1. The governor may by executive order enforce the 2 provisions of this section regarding the Missouri state workers' 3 compensation council.

2. There is hereby created a "Missouri State Workers' 5 Compensation Council". The council shall consist of nine appointed 6 voting members and two appointed nonvoting members. All appointees 7 shall be persons whose training and experience qualify them to deal 8 with the difficult problems of workers' compensation, particularly 9 legal, accounting, actuarial, economic, and social aspects of workers' 10 compensation.

11 (1) Three voting members shall be appointed to the council by 12 the governor. One voting member shall be appointed on account of his 13 or her vocation, employment, or affiliations being classed as 14 representative of employers. One voting member shall be appointed on 15 account of his or her vocation, employment, or affiliations being classed 16 as representative of employees. One voting member shall be appointed 17 to represent the public interest separate from employee or employer 18 representation. 19 (2) Three voting members and one nonvoting member shall be 20appointed to the council by the speaker of the house of 21representatives. One voting member shall be appointed on account of 22his or her vocation, employment, or affiliations being classed as representative of employers that employ twenty or less employees. One 23voting member shall be appointed on account of his or her vocation, 24employment, or affiliations being classed as representative of 25employees. One voting member shall be appointed to represent the 2627public interest separate from employee o r employer representation. One nonvoting member shall be appointed from the 2829house of representatives.

30 (3) Three voting members and one nonvoting member shall be appointed to the council by the president pro tem of the senate. One 31voting member shall be appointed on account of his or her vocation, 32employment, or affiliations being classed as representative of 33 employers. One voting member shall be appointed on account of his or 34her vocation, employment, or affiliations being classed as 35 36 representative of employees. One voting member shall be appointed to 37represent the public interest separate from employee or employer 38 representation. One nonvoting member shall be appointed from the 39 senate.

40 3. The council shall organize itself and select a chairperson or 41 cochairpersons and other officers from the nine voting members. Six voting members shall constitute a quorum and the council shall act 42only upon the affirmative vote of at least five of the voting 43members. The council shall meet no less than four times 44yearly. Members of the council shall serve without compensation, but 45are to be reimbursed the amount of actual expenses. Actual expenses 46 shall be paid from the workers' compensation fund under section 47287.710. 48

49 4. The division shall provide professional and clerical assistance
 50 as needed for regularly scheduled meetings.

51 5. Each nonvoting member shall serve for a term of four years or 52 until he or she is no longer a member of the general assembly 53 whichever occurs first. A nonvoting member's term shall be a 54 maximum of four years. Each voting member shall serve for a term of 55 three years. For the initial appointment, the governor-appointed

employer representative, the speaker of the house-appointed employee 5657representative, and the president pro tem of the senate-appointed public interest representative shall serve an initial term of one 58year. For the initial appointment, the governor-appointed employee 59representative, the speaker of the house-appointed public interest 60 representative, and the president pro tem of the senate-appointed 61employer representative shall serve an initial term of two years. At the 62end of a voting member's term he or she may be reappointed. 63

64 6. The council shall fulfill its responsibilities imposed under this65 chapter.

66 7. The council shall advise the division in carrying out the 67 purposes of this chapter. The council shall submit annually by January 68 fifteenth to the governor and the general assembly its recommendations 69 regarding amendments to this chapter, the status of workers' 70 compensation insurance, the projected maintenance of the solvency of 71 the second injury fund, and the adequacy of the workers' compensation 72 law.

8. The council shall present to the division every proposal of the council for changes in this chapter and shall seek the division's concurrence with the proposal. The division shall give careful consideration to every proposal submitted by the council for legislative or administrative action and shall review each legislative proposal for possible incorporation into department of labor and industrial relations' recommendations.

80 9. The council shall have access to only the records of the division that are necessary for the administration of this chapter and 8182to the reasonable services of the employees of the division. It may 83 request the director or any of the employees appointed by the director or any employee subject to this chapter to appear before it and to 84 testify relative to the functioning of this chapter and to other relevant 85matters. The council may conduct research of its own, make and 86 publish reports, and recommend to the division needed changes in this 87 chapter or in the rules of the division as it considers necessary. 88

10. The council, unless prohibited by a concurrent resolution of
the general assembly, shall be authorized to commission an outside
study of the solvency, adequacy, and staffing and operational efficiency
of the Missouri workers' compensation system. The study shall be

93 conducted every five years, the first being conducted in fiscal year
94 2011. The study shall be funded subject to appropriation from the
95 workers' compensation fund under section 287.710.

Section B. Because immediate action is necessary to ensure solvency of the second injury fund, section A of this act is deemed necessary for the immediate preservation of the public health, welfare, peace, and safety, and is hereby declared to be an emergency act within the meaning of the constitution, and section A of this act shall be in full force and effect upon its passage and approval.

Unofficial