

FIRST REGULAR SESSION

SENATE BILL NO. 481

99TH GENERAL ASSEMBLY

INTRODUCED BY SENATOR SIFTON.

Read 1st time February 27, 2017, and ordered printed.

ADRIANE D. CROUSE, Secretary.

0489S.03I

AN ACT

To repeal section 287.067, RSMo, and to enact in lieu thereof one new section relating to occupational diseases under workers' compensation laws.

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

Section A. Section 287.067, RSMo, is repealed and one new section
2 enacted in lieu thereof, to be known as section 287.067, to read as follows:

287.067. 1. In this chapter the term "occupational disease" is hereby
2 defined to mean, unless a different meaning is clearly indicated by the context,
3 an identifiable disease arising with or without human fault out of and in the
4 course of the employment. Ordinary diseases of life to which the general public
5 is exposed outside of the employment shall not be compensable, except where the
6 diseases follow as an incident of an occupational disease as defined in this
7 section. The disease need not to have been foreseen or expected but after its
8 contraction it must appear to have had its origin in a risk connected with the
9 employment and to have flowed from that source as a rational consequence.

10 2. An injury or death by occupational disease is compensable only if the
11 occupational exposure was the prevailing factor in causing both the resulting
12 medical condition and disability. The "prevailing factor" is defined to be the
13 primary factor, in relation to any other factor, causing both the resulting medical
14 condition and disability. Ordinary, gradual deterioration, or progressive
15 degeneration of the body caused by aging or by the normal activities of day-to-day
16 living shall not be compensable.

17 3. An injury due to repetitive motion is recognized as an occupational
18 disease for purposes of this chapter. An occupational disease due to repetitive
19 motion is compensable only if the occupational exposure was the prevailing factor
20 in causing both the resulting medical condition and disability. The "prevailing

21 factor" is defined to be the primary factor, in relation to any other factor, causing
22 both the resulting medical condition and disability. Ordinary, gradual
23 deterioration, or progressive degeneration of the body caused by aging or by the
24 normal activities of day-to-day living shall not be compensable.

25 4. "Loss of hearing due to industrial noise" is recognized as an
26 occupational disease for purposes of this chapter and is hereby defined to be a
27 loss of hearing in one or both ears due to prolonged exposure to harmful noise in
28 employment. "Harmful noise" means sound capable of producing occupational
29 deafness.

30 5. "Radiation disability" is recognized as an occupational disease for
31 purposes of this chapter and is hereby defined to be that disability due to
32 radioactive properties or substances or to Roentgen rays (X-rays) or exposure to
33 ionizing radiation caused by any process involving the use of or direct contact
34 with radium or radioactive properties or substances or the use of or direct
35 exposure to Roentgen rays (X-rays) or ionizing radiation.

36 6. Disease of the lungs or respiratory tract, hypotension, hypertension, or
37 disease of the heart or cardiovascular system, including carcinoma, may be
38 recognized as occupational diseases for the purposes of this chapter and are
39 defined to be disability due to exposure to smoke, gases, carcinogens, inadequate
40 oxygen, of paid firefighters of a paid fire department or paid police officers of a
41 paid police department certified under chapter 590 if a direct causal relationship
42 is established, or psychological stress of firefighters of a paid fire department or
43 paid peace officers of a police department who are certified under chapter 590 if
44 a direct causal relationship is established.

45 7. Any employee who is exposed to and contracts any contagious or
46 communicable disease arising out of and in the course of his or her employment
47 shall be eligible for benefits under this chapter as an occupational disease.

48 8. With regard to occupational disease due to repetitive motion, if the
49 exposure to the repetitive motion which is found to be the cause of the injury is
50 for a period of less than three months and the evidence demonstrates that the
51 exposure to the repetitive motion with the immediate prior employer was the
52 prevailing factor in causing the injury, the prior employer shall be liable for such
53 occupational disease.

54 **9. (1) Death, disability, or impairment of health of any person**
55 **who is a firefighter, police officer, emergency medical technician, or**
56 **any other first responder of any political subdivision shall be**

57 recognized as an occupational disease if:

58 (a) The person has completed five or more years of employment
59 as a firefighter, police officer, emergency medical technician, or other
60 first responder;

61 (b) The death, disability, or impairment of health is caused by
62 any disease of the lungs or respiratory tract, hypertension,
63 cardiovascular-renal disease, or post-traumatic stress disorder;

64 (c) The death, disability, or impairment of health is resulting
65 from the person's employment as a firefighter, police officer, emergency
66 medical technician, or any other first responder; and

67 (d) The person took a physical examination upon becoming
68 employed in that position which failed to reveal any evidence of any
69 condition or impairment of health.

70 (2) Any death, disability, or impairment of health arising under
71 this subsection shall be presumed to result from the employment of the
72 firefighter, police officer, emergency medical technician, or any other
73 first responder.

74 (3) Denial of a claim for any condition or impairment of health
75 arising under this section shall be on the basis of clear and convincing
76 medical evidence that the cause of the death, disability, or impairment
77 of health is unrelated to the employment of the firefighter, police
78 officer, emergency medical technician, or any other first responder.

79 10. As used in this section, "emergency medical technician" shall
80 have the same meaning as in section 190.100, and "post-traumatic stress
81 disorder" shall mean a condition of persistent mental and emotional
82 stress occurring as a result of injury or severe psychological shock.

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