

Act No. 74
Public Acts of 1998
Approved by the Governor
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STATE OF MICHIGAN
89TH LEGISLATURE
REGULAR SESSION OF 1998

Introduced by Senators Berryman, Conroy, Gougeon, North, Bullard, Vaughn, V. Smith, Peters, A. Smith, DeBeaussaert, Young, Stallings, Byrum, Koivisto and Hart

ENROLLED SENATE BILL No. 394

AN ACT to amend 1969 PA 317, entitled "An act to revise and consolidate the laws relating to worker's disability compensation; to increase the administrative efficiency of the adjudicative processes of the worker's compensation system; to improve the qualifications of the persons having adjudicative functions within the worker's compensation system; to prescribe certain powers and duties; to create the board of worker's compensation magistrates and the worker's compensation appellate commission; to create certain other boards; to provide certain procedures for the resolution of claims, including mediation and arbitration; to prescribe certain benefits for persons suffering a personal injury under the act; to prescribe certain limitations on obtaining benefits under the act; to create, and provide for the transfer of, certain funds; to prescribe certain fees; to prescribe certain remedies and penalties; to repeal certain parts of this act on specific dates; and to repeal certain acts and parts of acts," by amending sections 700a, 701a, 901, 905, 911, 915, 921, and 925 (MCL 418.700a, 418.701a, 418.901, 418.905, 418.911, 418.915, 418.921, and 418.925), sections 700a and 701a as added by 1993 PA 198 and sections 921 and 925 as amended by 1985 PA 103.

The People of the State of Michigan enact:

Sec. 700a. To help ensure participation by minority, women, and persons with disabilities owned and operated businesses in state privatization efforts under this act, the state of Michigan strongly encourages businesses, when responding to privatization requests for proposals and quotations, to either joint venture with or subcontract to minority, women, and persons with disabilities owned and operated businesses.

Sec. 701a. (1) The state administrative board created pursuant to 1921 PA 2, MCL 17.1 to 17.3, may authorize the executive director of the state accident fund to enter into and consummate, under terms and conditions approved by the state administrative board, an agreement in the name of the state of Michigan for the sale of all or substantially all of the assets of the state accident fund to a permitted transferee, and assumption of all or substantially all of the liabilities of the state accident fund by the permitted transferee subject to the following conditions:

(a) The state administrative board shall have received before the effective date of the transfer an opinion of a nationally recognized investment banking firm that the consideration for the assets to be transferred is fair from a financial point of view.

(b) The state administrative board shall have received before the effective date of the transfer an opinion of a nationally recognized actuarial firm that the assets of the state accident fund transferred to a permitted transferee are adequate to permit the payment of all liabilities under policies of insurance assumed by the permitted transferee based upon sound actuarial principles.

(c) The state administrative board shall have determined before the effective date of the transfer that the consideration for the assets to be transferred is among the highest cash offers by a qualified bidder as provided for in

this section not using the state accident fund assets, is fair from a financial point of view and is sufficient such that the credit of the state shall not have been granted to, nor in aid of any person, association, or corporation, public or private. A person seeking to purchase the state accident fund shall not include as part of its bid the existing assets of the state accident fund. The state administrative board with the advice of the insurance commissioner shall make a determination that the bidder has adequate resources to capitalize the permitted transferee, and will operate the permitted transferee as a Michigan domestic insurer pursuant to chapter 51 of the insurance code of 1956, 1956 PA 218, MCL 500.5100 to 500.5114.

(d) The state administrative board, as it considers appropriate from time to time, may consult with or receive information or recommendations from the insurance commissioner or any other person considered appropriate by the state administrative board, for purposes of assisting the state administrative board in making a final decision in evaluating 1 or more offers from any person seeking to become or establish a permitted transferee for purposes of acquiring the state accident fund pursuant to this section.

(e) The state administrative board shall give due consideration to minority, women, and persons with disabilities owned businesses and prospective bidders that have minority, women, and persons with disabilities owned business participation. A prospective bidder shall indicate in its proposal the name, address, and amount of equity participation for each minority, women, or persons with disabilities owned and operated business that is included as part or all of the bidding group.

(2) The consideration in the transaction referred to in subsection (1) shall be the property of the state of Michigan. The consideration shall not be subject to the assessment of fees pursuant to section 713. The consideration shall be appropriated as follows:

(a) Not more than 1% of the consideration to a separate segregated fund to be held by the state treasurer and administered by the commissioner of insurance and the executive director of the state accident fund for the purposes of winding up the affairs of the state accident fund pursuant to section 701(4).

(c) The remainder to the general fund for transfer to the countercyclical budget and economic stabilization fund established pursuant to section 351 of the management and budget act, 1984 PA 431, MCL 18.1351.

(3) The state administrative board or the executive director of the state accident fund with the authorization of the state administrative board, in furtherance of the transactions permitted under this section, may do any of the following:

(a) Sell, convey, lease, exchange, transfer, or otherwise dispose of the assets and liabilities including any real or personal property of the state accident fund, wherever situated.

(b) Sell, exchange, transfer, or otherwise dispose of bonds and other obligations, shares or other securities or interests issued by others, whether engaged in similar or different businesses, or governmental or other activities, including banking corporations or trust companies.

(c) Have and exercise all powers necessary or convenient to effect or complete the transactions permitted under this section.

(4) A court in this state shall not have jurisdiction to enjoin or otherwise restrain the transfer of assets and liabilities under this section. The court of claims shall have exclusive jurisdiction over any claims asserted against the state of Michigan arising out of or related to this section.

(5) No cause of action on behalf of any holder of a policy of insurance issued by the state accident fund shall lie against the permitted transferee arising out of the sale of assets or other transactions permitted under this section, except that this subsection shall not limit the rights or remedies of the holder under a policy of insurance issued by the state accident fund and assumed by the permitted transferee to contest the insurance coverage arising under a policy of insurance issued by the state accident fund. No cause of action on behalf of any holder of a policy of insurance issued by the state accident fund shall lie against the state of Michigan or any political subdivision of the state arising out of the sale of assets or other transactions permitted under this section, or arising under policies of insurance issued by the state accident fund.

(6) Except for taxes otherwise imposed by the state of Michigan or any political subdivision of the state or any fees imposed pursuant to section 713, the sale of assets permitted under this section shall be free and clear of any liens, claims, or interests of the state of Michigan or any person claiming through or under the state of Michigan.

(7) The state administrative board for and on behalf of the state of Michigan and subject to the requirements of this section shall have the right in its sole and absolute discretion to establish the terms and conditions of any proposal for the sale of the state accident fund on the basis of its own criteria, to evaluate those proposals by its own criteria, and to reject any or all proposals without assigning any reasons. If 2 or more prospective bids are substantially similar in terms and conditions and the dollar amount of the bids are within 5% of each other, the board shall give preference to a bidder agreeing to retain, for a period of 5 years after the effective date of the transfer, not less than 75% of the employees employed by the accident fund on the effective date of the transfer. The board shall not consider a bidder who does not agree to offer health coverage without preexisting conditions or exclusions to employees employed by the accident fund on the effective date of the transfer and who are retained by the bidder. The state administrative board shall permit a group that is composed solely of a majority of the employees of the state accident fund the opportunity

to meet the bid that the board determines is the most favorable for the sale of the fund. If the employees meet this bid, including the standards and preferences of this section, they must do so within 60 days of the presentation to the state administrative board. The employees shall be given the opportunity to form an insurer for the purpose of acquiring the fund and shall be permitted a period of time not to exceed 10 years within which to consummate the sale of the state accident fund. The state administrative board for and on behalf of the state of Michigan expressly reserves the right without giving any reasons and without any liability therefor, at any time and in any respect, to amend or terminate any activities with respect to the sale of the state accident fund, commence or terminate discussions with any or all persons seeking to purchase the state accident fund, reject any or all proposals to acquire the state accident fund, and to negotiate and consummate the sale of the state accident fund with any person. If a proposal submitted by a nonprofit health care corporation operating under the nonprofit health care corporation reform act, 1980 PA 350, MCL 550.1101 to 550.1704, is accepted, the nonprofit health care corporation, in addition to payment of the purchase price, shall remit to the state treasurer an additional amount calculated by the state treasurer as being equal to the single business tax that a nonprofit health care corporation would have paid on the accumulated assets used to acquire the accident fund if the nonprofit health care corporation were a for-profit mutual insurer.

(8) Nothing in this section shall require the state administrative board to approve or authorize any transaction for the sale of the state accident fund.

(9) Not less than 30 days before the transfer is consummated with a permitted transferee, the state administrative board shall make a report to the legislature providing the name and business address of each bidder; the amount, terms, and conditions of each respective bid; and the copies of the opinions required by subsection (1)(a) and (b).

Sec. 901. As used in this chapter:

(a) "Vocationally disabled" means a person who has a medically certifiable impairment of the back or heart, or who is subject to epilepsy, or who has diabetes, and whose impairment is a substantial obstacle to employment, considering such factors as the person's age, education, training, experience, and employment rejection.

(b) "Certifying agency" means the division of vocational rehabilitation of the department of education.

(c) "Certificate" means documentation issued by the certifying agency to an individual who is vocationally disabled.

(d) "Fund" means the second injury fund created in chapter 5. Payments made by the fund under this chapter shall be treated the same as all other payments made by the second injury fund.

Sec. 905. An unemployed person who wishes to be certified as vocationally disabled for purposes of this chapter shall apply to the certifying agency on forms furnished by the agency. The certifying agency shall conduct an investigation and shall issue a certificate to a person who meets the requirements for vocationally disabled certification. The certificate is valid for 2 calendar years after the date of issuance. After expiration of a certificate an unemployed person may apply for a new certificate. A certificate is not valid with an employer by whom the person has been employed within 52 weeks before issuance of the certificate.

Sec. 911. Upon commencement of employment of a certified vocationally disabled person the employer shall submit to the certifying agency, on forms furnished by the agency, all pertinent information requested by the agency. The certifying agency shall acknowledge receipt of the information. Failure to file the required information with the certifying agency within 60 days after the first day of the vocationally disabled person's employment precludes the employer from the protection and benefits of this chapter unless such information is filed before an injury for which benefits are payable under this act.

Sec. 915. The director of the certifying agency shall promulgate rules of procedure for certification of vocationally disabled persons in accordance with the administrative procedures act of 1969, 1969 PA 306, MCL 24.201 to 24.328.

Sec. 921. A person certified as vocationally disabled who receives a personal injury arising out of and in the course of his employment and resulting in death or disability, shall be paid compensation in the manner and to the extent provided in this act, or in case of his death resulting from such injury, the compensation shall be paid to his dependents. The liability of the employer for payment of compensation, for furnishing medical care or for payment of expenses of the employee's last illness and burial as provided in this act shall be limited to those benefits accruing during the period of 52 weeks after the date of injury. Thereafter, all compensation and the cost of all medical care and expenses of the employee's last sickness and burial shall be the liability of the fund. The fund shall be liable, from the date of injury, for those vocational rehabilitation benefits provided in section 319.

Sec. 925. (1) When a vocationally disabled person receives a personal injury, the procedure and practice provided in this act applies to all proceedings under this chapter, except where specifically otherwise provided herein. Not less than 90 nor more than 150 days before the expiration of 52 weeks after the date of injury, the carrier shall notify the fund whether it is likely that compensation may be payable beyond a period of 52 weeks after the date of injury. The fund,

thereafter, may review, at reasonable times, such information as the carrier has regarding the accident, and the nature and extent of the injury and disability.

(2) If the fund does not notify the carrier of its intent to dispute the payment of compensation, the carrier shall continue to make payments on behalf of the fund, and shall be reimbursed by the fund for all compensation paid and pertaining to the period beyond 52 weeks after the date of injury. However at any time subsequent to 52 weeks after the date of injury, the fund may notify the carrier of a dispute as to the payment of compensation. The liability of the fund to reimburse the carrier shall be suspended 30 days thereafter until such controversy is determined.

(3) The obligation imposed by this section on a carrier to make payments on behalf of the fund does not impose an independent liability on the carrier. After a carrier has established the right to reimbursement, payment shall be made promptly on a proper showing every 6 months. If a carrier does not make the payments on behalf of the fund, the fund may make the payments directly to the persons entitled to such payments.

This act is ordered to take immediate effect.



Secretary of the Senate.



Clerk of the House of Representatives.

Approved _____

Governor.