

5951--A

Cal. No. 96

2015-2016 Regular Sessions

I N S E N A T E

June 12, 2015

Introduced by Sens. MURPHY, PANEPINTO -- read twice and ordered printed, and when printed to be committed to the Committee on Rules -- recommended to the Committee on Labor in accordance with Senate Rule 6, sec. 8 -- reported favorably from said committee, ordered to first and second report, ordered to a third reading, amended and ordered reprinted, retaining its place in the order of third reading

AN ACT to amend the workers' compensation law, in relation to the continuation of death benefits to a surviving spouse regardless of remarriage

THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF NEW YORK, REPRESENTED IN SENATE AND ASSEMBLY, DO ENACT AS FOLLOWS:

1 Section 1. Subdivisions 1-b, 1-c, 1-d, 2, 2-a and 2-b of section 16 of
2 the workers' compensation law, subdivisions 1-b, 1-c and 2 as amended by
3 chapter 168 of the laws of 1979, subdivision 2-a as amended by chapter
4 174 of the laws of 1981 and subdivisions 1-d and 2-b as added by chapter
5 689 of the laws of 2007, are amended and a new subdivision 2-c is added
6 to read as follows:

7 1-b. If there be a surviving spouse and no child of the deceased under
8 the age of eighteen years and no child of any age dependent blind or
9 physically disabled, and the death occurs on or after July first, nine-
10 teen hundred forty-eight, and prior to January first, nineteen hundred
11 seventy-eight, to such spouse forty per centum of the average wages of
12 the deceased [during widowhood or widowerhood with two years' compen-
13 sation in one sum, upon remarriage]; and where the death occurred prior
14 to July first, nineteen hundred forty-eight, to such wife (or dependent
15 husband) thirty per centum of such wages [during widowhood (or dependent
16 widowerhood) with two years' compensation in one sum, upon remarriage].

17 1-c. If there be a surviving spouse and no child of the deceased under
18 the age of eighteen years or under the age of twenty-three years if
19 enrolled and attending as a full time student in an accredited educa-
20 tional institution and such enrollment and full time attendance is

EXPLANATION--Matter in ITALICS (underscored) is new; matter in brackets
[] is old law to be omitted.

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1 certified by such institution and no child of any age dependent blind or
 2 physically disabled, and the death occurs on or after January first,
 3 nineteen hundred seventy-eight, to such spouse sixty-six and two-thirds
 4 per centum of the average wages of the deceased [during widowhood or
 5 widowerhood with two years' compensation, in one sum, upon remarriage].
 6 Where the death occurs on or after January first, nineteen hundred
 7 seventy-eight, and the spouse is receiving the survivors insurance bene-
 8 fits under the social security act, the death benefit payable under this
 9 section shall be reduced in accordance with the provisions of table No.
 10 1 below by five per centum of the spouse's share of the survivor's
 11 insurance benefits under the social security act for each ten dollars of
 12 deceased's average weekly wage in excess of one hundred dollars provided
 13 that in no case shall such reduction exceed fifty per centum of said
 14 spouse's share of the survivors insurance benefits under the social
 15 security act.

16 TABLE No. I

17 Offset provisions applicable in death benefits
 18 where there is a sole surviving spouse

19 AVERAGE WEEKLY WAGE	20 PERCENTAGE OF SPOUSE'S 21 SHARE OF SURVIVORS INSURANCE BENEFITS
22 over \$100 up to and including \$110	5
23 over \$110 up to and including \$120	10
24 over \$120 up to and including \$130	15
25 over \$130 up to and including \$140	20
26 over \$140 up to and including \$150	25
27 over \$150 up to and including \$160	30
28 over \$160 up to and including \$170	35
29 over \$170 up to and including \$180	40
30 over \$180 up to and including \$190	45
31 over \$190 up to and including \$200	50
32 over \$200	50

33 1-d. If there be a surviving spouse of an employee of a private volun-
 34 tary hospital killed in a World Trade Center rescue, who passed a phys-
 35 ical examination upon employment as a rescue worker that failed to
 36 reveal evidence of a condition that was the proximate cause of death,
 37 and no child of the deceased under the age of eighteen years, or under
 38 the age of twenty-three years if enrolled and attending as a full-time
 39 student in an accredited educational institution and such enrollment and
 40 full-time attendance is certified by such institution, and no child of
 41 any age dependent blind or physically disabled, to such spouse seventy-
 42 five per centum of the average wages of the deceased [during widowhood
 43 or widowerhood, with two years' compensation, in one sum, upon remar-
 44 riage]. Where such death occurs, and the spouse is receiving the survi-
 45 vors insurance benefits under the social security act, the death benefit
 46 payable under this section shall be reduced in accordance with the
 47 provisions of table No. I in subdivision one-c of this section by five
 48 per centum of the spouse's share of the survivor's insurance benefits
 49 under the social security act for each ten dollars of deceased's average
 50 weekly wage in excess of one hundred dollars; provided that in no case
 51 shall such reduction exceed fifty per centum of such spouse's share of
 52 the survivors insurance benefits under the social security act.

1 2. If there be a surviving spouse and a surviving child or children of
2 the deceased under the age of eighteen years or a surviving child or
3 children of any age dependent blind or physically disabled, and the
4 death occurs on or after July first, nineteen hundred forty-eight, and
5 prior to January first, nineteen hundred seventy-eight, to such spouse
6 thirty per centum of the average wages of the deceased [during widowhood
7 or widowerhood with two years' compensation in one sum, upon remar-
8 riage]; and the additional amount of twenty per centum of such wages for
9 each such child until the age of eighteen years or until the removal of
10 the dependency of the blind or physically disabled child or children; in
11 case of the subsequent death [or remarriage] of such surviving spouse
12 any surviving child of the deceased employee, at the time under eighteen
13 years of age or dependent through mental or physical infirmity, shall
14 have his compensation increased to thirty per centum of such wages, and
15 the same shall be payable until he shall reach the age of eighteen years
16 or until such dependent blind or physically disabled condition shall
17 have been removed; provided that the total amount payable shall in no
18 case exceed sixty-six and two-thirds per centum of such wages. Upon
19 statutory termination of compensation payments to all such children, the
20 compensation of the surviving spouse shall be increased to forty per
21 centum of such wages [with two years' compensation, at such rate, in one
22 sum, upon remarriage].

23 If there be a surviving wife (or dependent husband) and any of the
24 aforementioned surviving children, and the death occurred prior to July
25 first, nineteen hundred forty-eight, to such wife (or dependent husband)
26 thirty per centum of the average wages of the deceased [during widowhood
27 (or dependent widowerhood) with two years' compensation in one sum, upon
28 remarriage]; and the additional amount of ten per centum of such wages
29 for each such child until eighteen years of age or until the removal of
30 the dependency of the blind or physically disabled child or children; in
31 case of the subsequent death [or remarriage] of such surviving wife (or
32 dependent husband) any surviving child of the deceased shall have his
33 compensation increased to fifteen per centum of such wages until he
34 shall reach the age of eighteen years or until such dependent blind or
35 physically disabled condition shall have been removed; provided that the
36 total amount payable shall in no case exceed sixty-six and two-thirds
37 per centum of such wages.

38 The board may in its discretion require the appointment of a guardian
39 for the purpose of receiving the compensation of a minor child or a
40 dependent blind or physically disabled child. In the absence of such a
41 requirement by the board the appointment of a guardian for such purposes
42 shall not be necessary.

43 2-a. If there be a surviving spouse and a surviving child under the
44 age of eighteen years or under the age of twenty-three years if enrolled
45 and attending as a full time student in an accredited educational insti-
46 tution and such enrollment and full time attendance is certified by such
47 institution or a surviving child of any age dependent blind or phys-
48 ically disabled and the death occurs on or after January first, nineteen
49 hundred seventy-eight, to such spouse thirty-six and two-thirds per
50 centum of the average wages of the deceased [during widowhood or widow-
51 erhood with two years' compensation in one sum, upon remarriage]; and
52 thirty per centum of such wages to such child under the age of eighteen
53 years or under the age of twenty-three years if enrolled and attending
54 as a full time student in an accredited educational institution and such
55 enrollment and full time attendance is certified by such institution or
56 a surviving child of any age dependent blind or physically disabled; in

1 the case of the subsequent death of such surviving spouse the surviving
 2 child shall have his compensation increased to sixty-six and two-thirds
 3 per centum of such wages and the same shall be payable so long as he is
 4 under the age of eighteen years or under the age of twenty-three years
 5 if enrolled and attending as a full time student in an accredited educa-
 6 tional institution and such enrollment and full time attendance is
 7 certified by such institution or a surviving child of any age dependent
 8 blind or physically disabled; upon statutory termination of compensation
 9 payable to such child, the compensation of the surviving spouse shall be
 10 increased to sixty-six and two-thirds per centum of such wages [with two
 11 years' compensation, at such rate, in one sum, upon remarriage. Upon
 12 remarriage of such surviving spouse, the surviving child shall continue
 13 to receive thirty per centum of such wages]. Where the death occurs on
 14 or after January first, nineteen hundred seventy-eight and the spouse is
 15 receiving survivors insurance benefits under the social security act,
 16 the death benefit payable under this section shall be reduced by five
 17 per centum of the spouse's share of the survivors insurance benefits
 18 under the social security act for each ten dollars of deceased's average
 19 weekly wage in excess of one hundred dollars provided that in no case
 20 shall such reduction exceed fifty per centum of said spouse's share of
 21 the survivors insurance benefits under the social security act as set
 22 forth in table No. I below.

23 TABLE No. I

24 Offset provisions applicable in death benefits
 25 where there is a surviving spouse and one child

26 AVERAGE WEEKLY WAGE	27 PERCENTAGE OF SPOUSE'S 28 SHARE OF SURVIVORS 29 INSURANCE BENEFITS
29 over \$100 up to and including \$110	5
30 over \$110 up to and including \$120	10
31 over \$120 up to and including \$130	15
32 over \$130 up to and including \$140	20
33 over \$140 up to and including \$150	25
34 over \$150 up to and including \$160	30
35 over \$160 up to and including \$170	35
36 over \$170 up to and including \$180	40
37 over \$180 up to and including \$190	45
38 over \$190 up to and including \$200	50
39 over \$200	50

40 If there be a surviving spouse and two or more surviving children
 41 under the age of eighteen years or under the age of twenty-three years
 42 if enrolled and attending as a full time student in an accredited educa-
 43 tional institution and such enrollment and full time attendance is
 44 certified by such institution or a surviving child or children of any
 45 age dependent blind or physically disabled and a death occurs on or
 46 after January first, nineteen hundred seventy-eight, to such spouse
 47 thirty-six and two-thirds per centum of the average wage of the deceased
 48 [during widowhood or widowerhood with two years' compensation in one sum
 49 upon remarriage]; and thirty per centum of such wages to such children
 50 under the age of eighteen years or under the age of twenty-three years
 51 if enrolled and attending as a full time student in an accredited educa-
 52 tional institution and such enrollment and full time attendance is
 53 certified by such institution or a surviving child or children of any

1 age dependent blind or physically disabled, share and share alike; in
 2 case of the subsequent death of such surviving spouse the surviving
 3 children shall have their compensation increased to sixty-six and two-
 4 thirds per centum of such wages and the aggregate sum shall be payable,
 5 share and share alike, so long as they are under the age of eighteen
 6 years or under the age of twenty-three years if enrolled and attending
 7 as a full time student in an accredited educational institution and such
 8 enrollment and full time attendance is certified by such institution or
 9 a surviving child or children of any age dependent blind or physically
 10 disabled. [Upon remarriage of such surviving spouse, if there be two
 11 surviving children each shall receive twenty-five per centum of such
 12 wages, and if there are surviving more than two children under the age
 13 of eighteen years or under the age of twenty-three if enrolled and
 14 attending as a full time student in an accredited educational institu-
 15 tion and such enrollment and full time attendance is certified by such
 16 institution or a surviving child or children of any age dependent blind
 17 or physically disabled sixty-six and two-thirds per centum of such wages
 18 share and share alike.] Upon statutory termination of compensation paya-
 19 ble to such children, the compensation of the surviving spouse shall be
 20 increased to sixty-six and two-thirds per centum of such wages [with two
 21 years' compensation, at such rate, in one sum, upon remarriage]. Where
 22 the death occurs on or after January first, nineteen hundred seventy-
 23 eight, and the spouse is receiving survivors insurance benefits under
 24 the social security act, the death benefits payable under this section
 25 shall be reduced by five per centum of the spouse's share of the survi-
 26 vors insurance benefits under the social security act for each ten
 27 dollars of deceased's average weekly wage in excess of one hundred fifty
 28 dollars provided that in no case shall such reduction exceed fifty per
 29 centum of said spouse's share of the survivors insurance benefits under
 30 the social security act as set forth in table No. II below.

31 TABLE No. II

32 Offset provisions applicable in death benefits
 33 where there is a surviving spouse and two or more children

34 AVERAGE WEEKLY WAGE	35 PERCENTAGE OF SPOUSE'S 36 SHARE OF SURVIVORS INSURANCE BENEFITS
37 over \$150 up to and including \$160	5
38 over \$160 up to and including \$170	10
39 over \$170 up to and including \$180	15
40 over \$180 up to and including \$190	20
41 over \$190 up to and including \$200	25
42 over \$200 up to and including \$210	30
43 over \$210 up to and including \$220	35
44 over \$220 up to and including \$230	40
45 over \$230 up to and including \$240	45
46 over \$240 up to and including \$250	50
47 over \$250	50

48 2-b. If there be a surviving spouse of an employee of a private volun-
 49 tary hospital killed in a World Trade Center rescue, who passed a phys-
 50 ical examination upon employment as a rescue worker that failed to
 51 reveal evidence of a condition that was the proximate cause of death,
 52 and a surviving child under the age of eighteen years, or under the age
 53 of twenty-three years if enrolled and attending as a full-time student

1 in an accredited educational institution and such enrollment and full-
2 time attendance is certified by such institution, or a surviving child
3 of any age dependent blind or physically disabled, to such spouse forty
4 per centum of the average wages of the deceased [during widowhood or
5 widowerhood, with two years' compensation in one sum, upon remarriage];
6 and thirty-five per centum of such wages to such child under the age of
7 eighteen years, or under the age of twenty-three years if enrolled and
8 attending as a full-time student in an accredited educational institu-
9 tion and such enrollment and full-time attendance is certified by such
10 institution, or a surviving child of any age dependent blind or phys-
11 ically disabled; in the case of the subsequent death of such surviving
12 spouse the surviving child shall have his or her compensation increased
13 to seventy-five per centum of such wages and the same shall be payable
14 so long as he or she is under the age of eighteen years, or under the
15 age of twenty-three years if enrolled and attending as a full-time
16 student in an accredited educational institution and such enrollment and
17 full-time attendance is certified by such institution, or a surviving
18 child of any age dependent blind or physically disabled; upon statutory
19 termination of compensation payable to such child, the compensation of
20 the surviving spouse shall be increased to seventy-five per centum of
21 such wages [with two years' compensation, at such rate, in one sum, upon
22 remarriage. Upon remarriage of such surviving spouse, the surviving
23 child shall continue to receive thirty-five per centum of such wages].
24 Where such death occurs, and the spouse is receiving survivors insurance
25 benefits under the social security act, the death benefit payable under
26 this section shall be reduced by five per centum of the spouse's share
27 of the survivors insurance benefits under the social security act for
28 each ten dollars of deceased's average weekly wage in excess of one
29 hundred dollars; provided that in no case shall such reduction exceed
30 fifty per centum of such spouse's share of the survivors insurance bene-
31 fits under the social security act as set forth in table No. I in subdi-
32 vision one-c of this section. If there be a surviving spouse of an
33 employee of a private voluntary hospital killed in a World Trade Center
34 rescue, who passed a physical examination upon employment as a rescue
35 worker that failed to reveal evidence of a condition that was the proximi-
36 mate cause of death, and two or more surviving children under the age of
37 eighteen years, or under the age of twenty-three years if enrolled and
38 attending as a full-time student in an accredited educational institu-
39 tion and such enrollment and full-time attendance is certified by such
40 institution, or a surviving child or children of any age dependent blind
41 or physically disabled and a death occurs on or after September elev-
42 enth, two thousand one, to such spouse forty per centum of the average
43 wage of the deceased [during widowhood or widowerhood with two years'
44 compensation in one sum upon remarriage]; and thirty-five per centum of
45 such wages to such children under the age of eighteen years, or under
46 the age of twenty-three years if enrolled and attending as a full-time
47 student in an accredited educational institution and such enrollment and
48 full-time attendance is certified by such institution, or a surviving
49 child or children of any age dependent blind or physically disabled,
50 share and share alike; in case of the subsequent death of such surviving
51 spouse the surviving children shall have their compensation increased to
52 seventy-five per centum of such wages and the aggregate sum shall be
53 payable, share and share alike, so long as they are under the age of
54 eighteen years, or under the age of twenty-three years if enrolled and
55 attending as a full-time student in an accredited educational institu-
56 tion and such enrollment and full-time attendance is certified by such

1 institution, or a surviving child or children of any age dependent blind
2 or physically disabled. [Upon remarriage of such surviving spouse, if
3 there be two surviving children each shall receive thirty-seven and
4 one-half per centum of such wages, and if there are surviving more than
5 two children under the age of eighteen years, or under the age of twen-
6 ty-three if enrolled and attending as a full-time student in an accred-
7 ited educational institution and such enrollment and full-time attend-
8 ance is certified by such institution, or a surviving child or children
9 of any age dependant blind or physically disabled, seventy-five per
10 centum of such wages share and share alike.] Upon statutory termination
11 of compensation payable to such children, the compensation of the
12 surviving spouse shall be increased to seventy-five per centum of such
13 wages [with two years' compensation, at such rate, in one sum, upon
14 remarriage]. Where the death occurs on or after September eleventh, two
15 thousand one, and the spouse is receiving survivors insurance benefits
16 under the social security act, the death benefits payable under this
17 section shall be reduced by five per centum of the spouse's share of the
18 survivors insurance benefits under the social security act for each ten
19 dollars of deceased's average weekly wage in excess of one hundred fifty
20 dollars; provided that in no case shall such reduction exceed fifty per
21 centum of said spouse's share of the survivors insurance benefits under
22 the social security act as set forth in table No. II in subdivision
23 two-a of this section.

24 2-C FOR THE PURPOSES OF THE PAYMENT OF BENEFITS TO A SURVIVING SPOUSE
25 PURSUANT TO THIS SECTION, THE REMARRIAGE OF SUCH SPOUSE SHALL NOT AFFECT
26 HIS OR HER STATUS AS A WIDOW OR WIDOWER FOR PURPOSES OF THIS SECTION.

27 S 2. This act shall take effect on the sixtieth day after it shall
28 have become a law.