

STATE OF NEW YORK

3964--A

2017-2018 Regular Sessions

IN SENATE

January 31, 2017

Introduced by Sen. SEWARD -- read twice and ordered printed, and when printed to be committed to the Committee on Labor -- recommitted to the Committee on Labor in accordance with Senate Rule 6, sec. 8 -- committee discharged, bill amended, ordered reprinted as amended and recommitted to said committee

AN ACT to amend the workers' compensation law, in relation to providing incentives for productive workers' compensation audits

The People of the State of New York, represented in Senate and Assembly, do enact as follows:

1 Section 1. The workers' compensation law is amended by adding a new
2 section 112-a to read as follows:

3 § 112-a. Audits of employers. 1. (a) Employers in all classes other
4 than the construction class shall be audited not less frequently than
5 biennially and the chair or board may provide for more frequent audits
6 of employers in specified classifications based on factors such as
7 amount of premium, type of business, loss ratios, or other relevant
8 factors. In no event shall employers in the construction class, generat-
9 ing more than the amount of premium required to be experience rated, be
10 audited less frequently than annually. The annual audits required for
11 construction classes may be a physical, onsite review of original
12 payroll records, employee records, checkbooks, cash book (disbursements
13 and receipts), general ledger, contracts, tax returns including quarter-
14 ly payroll filings, and original certificates of insurance. The audit of
15 all employers shall be conducted no more than one hundred twenty days
16 after the expiration of a policy period. At the completion of an audit,
17 if requested by the auditor, the employer or officer of the corporation
18 must print and sign their names on the audit document affirming the
19 accuracy of the information provided therein. As required by section one
20 hundred twelve of this article, employers shall make available all books
21 and records necessary for the payroll verification audit and permit the
22 auditor to make a physical inspection of the employer's operation. If

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

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1 an employer fails to provide reasonable access to all such books and
2 records necessary for a payroll verification audit, including a physical
3 inspection of the employer's operation, the employer shall pay a
4 surcharge to the carrier of two times the most recent estimated annual
5 premium.

6 (b) Employers that fail to provide reasonable access to the carrier
7 for the purpose of conducting an audit shall be reported to the New York
8 compensation insurance rating board.

9 (c) If an employer knowingly understates or knowingly conceals
10 payroll, knowingly misrepresents or knowingly conceals employee duties
11 so as to avoid proper classification for premium calculations, or know-
12 ingly misrepresents or knowingly conceals information pertinent to the
13 computation and application of an experience rating modification factor,
14 said knowing misrepresentations or knowing concealments shall be consid-
15 ered fraudulent practices in violation of applicable provisions of
16 section one hundred fourteen of this article and insurance fraud in
17 violation of applicable provisions of section 176.05 of the penal law.

18 (d) If during the course of an audit conducted under this section, an
19 insurance carrier obtains information indicating a violation of the
20 provisions of paragraph (c) of this subdivision, then the carrier shall
21 report such information to the board.

22 2. This section shall not apply to employers that self-insure or
23 employers that are members of a workers' compensation group self-insured
24 trust.

25 3. For the purposes of this section, "construction class" means the
26 work or occupation described in "Group 3" of subdivision one of section
27 three of this chapter.

28 § 2. This act shall take effect January 1, 2020.