

# STATE OF NEW YORK

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1024

2021-2022 Regular Sessions

## IN SENATE

(Prefiled)

January 6, 2021

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Introduced by Sen. RAMOS -- read twice and ordered printed, and when printed to be committed to the Committee on Labor

AN ACT to amend the workers' compensation law, in relation to eligibility for classification as permanent total disability

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

1 Section 1. Subdivision 1 of section 15 of the workers' compensation  
2 law, as amended by chapter 675 of the laws of 1977, is amended to read  
3 as follows:

4 1. Permanent total disability. In case of total disability adjudged to  
5 be permanent sixty-six and two-thirds per centum of the average weekly  
6 wages shall be paid to the employee during the continuance of such total  
7 disability. Loss of both hands, or both arms, or both feet, or both  
8 legs, or both eyes, or of any two thereof, or inability to perform the  
9 full range of sedentary work, or approval for federal social security  
10 disability benefits as a result of a compensable accident or occupa-  
11 tional disease shall, in the absence of conclusive proof to the contra-  
12 ry, constitute permanent total disability. In all other cases permanent  
13 total disability shall be determined in accordance with the facts.  
14 Notwithstanding any other provision of this chapter, an injured employee  
15 disabled due to the loss or total loss of use of both eyes, or both  
16 hands, or both arms, or both feet, or both legs, or of any two thereof  
17 shall not suffer any diminution of his compensation by engaging in busi-  
18 ness or employment provided his earnings or wages, when combined with  
19 his compensation, shall not be in excess of the wage base on which the  
20 maximum weekly compensation benefit is computed under the law in effect  
21 at time of such earning; further provided, that if the combination  
22 exceeds such wage base, the compensation shall be diminished to an  
23 amount which, together with his earnings or wages, shall equal the wage  
24 base; and further provided that the application of this subdivision

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

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1 shall not result in reduction of compensation which an injured employee  
2 who is disabled due to the loss or total loss of use of both eyes, or  
3 both hands, or both arms, or both feet, or both legs or of any two ther-  
4 eof, would otherwise be entitled to under any other provision of this  
5 section.

6 § 2. This act shall take effect immediately.