

STATE OF NEW YORK

8429

2025-2026 Regular Sessions

IN ASSEMBLY

May 15, 2025

Introduced by M. of A. BRONSON -- read once and referred to the Committee on Labor

AN ACT to amend the workers' compensation law, in relation to establishing a fraud assessment commission and an assessment for workers' compensation fraud investigations; and to amend the state finance law, in relation to establishing the workers' compensation fraud investigation fund

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

1 Section 1. Legislative intent. The legislature hereby finds that
2 construction employers shave a significant amount off their labor costs
3 through workers' compensation premium fraud. They do that by taking
4 advantage of workers' compensation insurer practices that enable fraud.

5 Employer workers' compensation premium fraud is costing insurers \$5
6 billion a year and it's costing law-abiding employers and their employ-
7 ees jobs. The Century Foundation hired economists to study and write a
8 report on fraud in the U.S. construction industry that has detailed the
9 impacts of these practices extensively; 10 to 19 percent of construction
10 workers who should be treated as employees are not. That's 1.1 to 2.1
11 million workers, ultimately resulting in \$10 billion or more in unpaid
12 federal and state taxes.

13 The legislature finds that New York state must generate additional
14 resources to ensure that the workers' compensation fraud inspector
15 general and local prosecutors have the resources available to investi-
16 gate and prosecute workers' compensation fraud cases and cases relating
17 to the willful failure to secure the payment of workers' compensation.
18 This will help combat broader rampant wage theft throughout the
19 construction industry.

20 § 2. The workers' compensation law is amended by adding two new
21 sections 151-a and 151-b to read as follows:

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

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1 § 151-a. Fraud assessment commission. There is hereby established a
2 fraud assessment commission, which shall consist of nine members
3 appointed by the governor as follows: three members from a bona fide
4 labor organization, two members from self-insured employers, two members
5 from insured employers, and two members from insurers. The term of
6 office shall be four years, and a member shall hold office until the
7 appointment of a successor. The chair of the workers' compensation
8 board, the commissioner of labor, and the workers' compensation fraud
9 inspector general shall be ex officio voting members of the commission.

10 § 151-b. Assessment for workers' compensation fraud investigations. To
11 fund the investigation and prosecution of workers' compensation fraud,
12 willful failure to secure payment of workers' compensation punishable
13 under section fifty-two of this chapter, and failure to keep true and
14 accurate records as required under section one hundred thirty-one of
15 this chapter, the chair of the workers' compensation board, in consulta-
16 tion with the workers' compensation fraud inspector general and the
17 fraud assessment commission shall establish, by the first day of Novem-
18 ber, two thousand twenty-five, and annually thereafter, an assessment
19 for workers' compensation fraud investigations which shall be borne by
20 affected employers securing compensation for their employees pursuant to
21 section fifty of this chapter. The assessment for workers' compensation
22 fraud investigations shall be in addition to assessments for annual
23 expenses established in section one hundred fifty-one of this article.
24 All assessments collected pursuant to this section shall be credited to
25 the workers' compensation fraud investigation fund under section nine-
26 ty-nine-ss of the state finance law and shall be available for the uses
27 and purposes of such fund.

28 § 3. The state finance law is amended by adding a new section 99-ss to
29 read as follows:

30 § 99-ss. Workers' compensation fraud investigation fund. 1. There is
31 hereby established in the joint custody of the chair of the workers'
32 compensation board, the commissioner of labor, and the comptroller a
33 special fund to be known as the "workers' compensation fraud investi-
34 gation fund".

35 2. Such fund shall consist of monies received from the imposition of
36 the assessment for workers' compensation fraud investigations pursuant
37 to section one hundred fifty-one-b of the workers' compensation law, and
38 all other monies appropriated, credited, or transferred thereto from any
39 other fund or source pursuant to law.

40 3. Monies in the fund, pursuant to appropriation by the legislature,
41 issuance of a certificate of availability by the director of the budget,
42 and a determination by the chair of the workers' compensation board in
43 consultation with the workers' compensation fraud inspector general,
44 with the advice and consent of the fraud assessment commission as to the
45 most effective distribution of monies, may be made available for
46 purposes of the investigation and prosecution of workers' compensation
47 fraud cases, cases relating to the willful failure to secure the payment
48 of workers' compensation, and cases relating to the failure to keep true
49 and accurate records.

50 4. At least fifty percent of the workers' compensation fraud investi-
51 gation fund established pursuant to this section shall be distributed to
52 district attorneys for purposes of the investigation and prosecution of
53 workers' compensation fraud cases, cases relating to the willful failure
54 to secure the payment of workers' compensation, and cases relating to
55 the failure to keep true and accurate records. If a district attorney is
56 determined by the chair of the workers' compensation board or the work-

1 ers' compensation fraud inspector general to be unwilling or unable to
2 investigate and prosecute workers' compensation fraud claims, claims
3 relating to the willful failure to secure the payment of workers'
4 compensation, or claims relating to the failure to keep true and accu-
5 rate records, the commissioner of labor shall discontinue distribution
6 of funds allocated for such county and may redistribute such funds
7 according to this section.

8 5. Monies shall be payable from the fund on the audit and warrant of
9 the comptroller on vouchers approved and certified by the commissioner
10 of labor.

11 6. Monies in the workers' compensation fraud investigation fund shall
12 be kept separate and shall not be commingled with any other monies in
13 the custody of the chair of the workers' compensation board, the commis-
14 sioner of labor and/or the comptroller.

15 7. To the extent practicable, the commissioner of labor shall ensure
16 that all monies received during a fiscal year are expended prior to the
17 end of such fiscal year.

18 8. By the thirtieth day of June, two thousand twenty-five, and annual-
19 ly thereafter, the chair of the workers' compensation board, in consul-
20 tation with the workers' compensation fraud inspector general or the
21 fraud assessment commission, shall develop and release a request for
22 proposals and application process for the funds outlined in this
23 section.

24 9. The fraud assessment commission shall provide quarterly reports to
25 the speaker of the assembly, the temporary president of the senate, the
26 chair of the senate finance committee and the chair of the assembly ways
27 and means committee, on the receipts and distributions of the workers'
28 compensation investigation fund, including an itemization of such
29 receipts and disbursements, the historical and projected expenditures,
30 and the projected fund balance.

31 § 4. This act shall take effect immediately.