

STATE OF NEW YORK

4457

2025-2026 Regular Sessions

IN ASSEMBLY

February 4, 2025

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

AN ACT to amend the workers' compensation law, in relation to presump-
tions in opioid overdose claims for compensation

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

- 1 Section 1. Section 21 of the workers' compensation law, subdivision 5
2 as amended by chapter 268 of the laws of 1946, is amended to read as
3 follows:
- 4 § 21. Presumptions. In any proceeding for the enforcement of a claim
5 for compensation under this chapter, it shall be presumed in the absence
6 of substantial evidence to the contrary:
- 7 1. That the claim comes within the provision of this chapter;
- 8 2. That sufficient notice thereof was given;
- 9 3. That the injury was not occasioned by the willful intention of the
10 injured employee to bring about the injury or death of [~~himself~~] the
11 injured employee or of another;
- 12 4. That the injury did not result solely from the intoxication of the
13 injured employee while on duty[~~-~~];
- 14 5. That the contents of verified medical and surgical reports intro-
15 duced in evidence by claimants for compensation shall constitute prima
16 facie evidence of fact as to the matter contained therein[~~-~~]; and
17 6. That the death of an injured worker due to opioid overdose is
18 compensable where that injured worker was prescribed opioids as a result
19 of such injured worker's workplace injury.
- 20 § 2. This act shall take effect immediately.

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

LBD05131-01-5