

Michael G. Comeau, Esq. - Chairman  
Sandra I. Dorsey  
Karen L. Ebersole  
Kathleen Fink, M.D.  
Kevin P. Foy, Esq.  
Melinda L. Hayes, M.S., C.R.C., CDMS  
Ricardo Loaiza  
Patrick A. Roberson, Esq.  
Matthew D. Trollinger, Esq.

**Workers' Compensation  
Budget Advisory Committee**

---

10 East Baltimore Street, 7<sup>th</sup> Floor, Baltimore, MD 21202-1641 Phone (410) 864-5161

December 2, 2013

The Honorable Martin O'Malley, Governor  
State of Maryland  
State House  
100 State Circle  
Annapolis, MD 21401

Re: Report of Budget Advisory Committee for the  
Workers' Compensation Commission for Fiscal Year 2015 Budget

Dear Governor O'Malley:

Pursuant to the requirements of Md. Code Ann., Lab. & Empl. § 9-318(d), this is the report of the Advisory Committee on the budget of the Workers' Compensation Commission for Fiscal Year 2015.

The Workers' Compensation Commission is a specially funded agency. Its operation costs the general fund zero dollars. No fees, charges or other costs are imposed on Marylanders by the State to support the Commission. The Commission is funded by assessments on insurers and self-insured employers.

The Advisory Committee on the budget of the Commission consists of representatives of insurers, self-insured employers, injured workers, labor, medical and vocational rehabilitation interests.

On October 10, 2013, the Committee met with the Honorable R. Karl Aumann, Chairman of the Commission, and key staff relevant to the budget. The Chairman and staff presented a comprehensive overview of the proposed Fiscal Year 2015 budget. The

- 2 -

Chairman included in his comments one significant concern that would require the approval of an over-the-target budget request.

Last year, the Committee made recommendations regarding long-term issues with the WCC's information technology systems. After consultation with members of WCC's executive team, it is now critical to begin addressing these issues. The first step should be to seek a professional consultant who will be able to identify the entire scope of the project and give direction to the WCC as to how the project should be managed. The WCC will then have an informed understanding of what it will need to update and enhance its information technology systems.

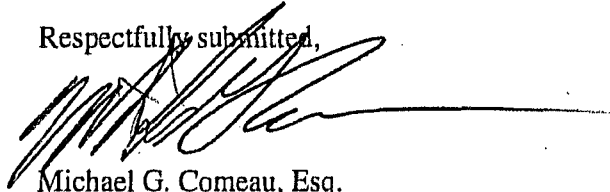
As stated in MFR goals 3.1 and 3.2, this consultant will ultimately make clear how this project will allow expansion of the WCC's technology based services to achieve an even higher level of service to the workers' compensation community and citizens of the State of Maryland. Based on a small sample of similar projects proposed by other State agencies we strongly recommend an over-the-target request of \$400,000 for this purpose.

The Committee met in closed session immediately following the presentation by the Commission and fully discussed the submitted proposed budget. By unanimous vote of the members present, both in person and by telephone, the Committee approved the budget, including the over-the-target request, as discussed herein.

In addition, Chairman Aumann is viewed by Advisory Committee members as an excellent manager with respect to budget issues as they relate to the overall mission of the Commission to provide an efficient and effective forum for the resolution of individual workers' compensation claims.

The Fiscal Year 2015 budget presented is, in our opinion, appropriate and should be approved as submitted with the \$400,000 over-the-target request included.

Respectfully submitted,



Michael G. Comeau, Esq.  
Chair  
Budget Advisory Committee

MTH/jld

Cc: All Members of Budget Advisory Committee  
The Honorable R. Karl Aumann, Chairman  
Department of Legislative Services