



MARYLAND GENERAL ASSEMBLY  
JOINT COMMITTEE ON WORKERS' COMPENSATION  
BENEFIT AND INSURANCE OVERSIGHT

December 17, 2019

The Honorable Thomas V. Mike Miller, Jr., Co-chair  
The Honorable Adrienne A. Jones, Co-chair  
Members of the Legislative Policy Committee

Ladies and Gentlemen:

The Joint Committee on Workers' Compensation Benefit and Insurance Oversight held one meeting during the 2019 interim on October 17, 2019. During the meeting, the committee received information about and discussed two policy issues.

First, the committee received a briefing from the Uninsured Employers' Fund (UEF) concerning a fund solvency study conducted over the 2019 interim. The report and summary discussed how UEF's financial obligations have grown significantly in the last 5 to 10 years while its revenue source has remained unchanged. Specifically, UEF's fund balance has decreased from \$10.8 million in fiscal 2012 to \$5.8 million in fiscal 2019 due to this discrepancy.

Second, the committee heard from the Workers' Compensation Commission (WCC), the Maryland Association for Justice (MAJ), and the Chesapeake Employers' Insurance Company (Chesapeake) concerning medical cannabis in the workers' compensation context. WCC noted that fewer than 10 claims for medical cannabis have been submitted to the commission thus far, so the issue has not been very prominent. In some cases the claims have been awarded and in others denied. MAJ advised that numerous other states have allowed medical cannabis to be prescribed/recommended for workers' compensation claims. Chesapeake warned that there is little research about the medical effectiveness of cannabis and that it is wary of paying for medical cannabis for injured workers because cannabis is still illegal under federal law.

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Please contact one of us or the committee staff Laura Atas or Richard Duncan at (410) 946-5510, if you have questions.

Sincerely,

*Katherine Klausmeier*  
Katherine Klausmeier  
Senate Chair *KK*

*Kriselda Valderrama*  
Kriselda Valderrama  
House Chair *KV*

KK:KV/RLD/kms

cc: Mr. Jake Weismann  
Ms. Alexandra M. Hughes

Ms. Victoria L. Gruber  
Mr. Ryan Bishop