

# 2022 ANNUAL REPORT



Larry Hogan, Governor  
Boyd K. Rutherford, Lt. Governor

R. Karl Aumann, Chairman  
Mary K. Ahearn, Chief Executive Officer

# MARYLAND WORKERS' COMPENSATION COMMISSION

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## MISSION

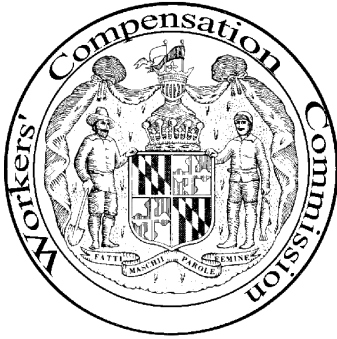
The Maryland Workers' Compensation Commission seeks to secure the equitable and timely administration of the provisions of the Maryland Workers' Compensation law on behalf of its customers, the injured workers and their employers, by providing an efficient forum for the resolution of individual claims.

## VISION

The Workers' Compensation Commission envisions a state wherein injured workers and employers are empowered to create an equitable partnership to facilitate prompt and fair resolution of workers' compensation matters.

## Equal Opportunity Employer

The Workers' Compensation Commission continues to acknowledge and accept its commitment to equal opportunity for all current and prospective employees as well as its clients.



## LETTER FROM THE CHAIRMAN

**A**s we proceed to our “new normal”, I am especially pleased to present the 2022 Annual Report of the Maryland Workers’ Compensation Commission. This comprehensive publication fulfills our legislative mandate in LE 9-312 and covers the fiscal year running from July 1, 2021 through June 30, 2022. It certainly reflects the enormous strides we have made in response to the challenges posed by the pandemic.

The Commission has successfully performed our responsibilities with professionalism and focus. Our workers’ compensation system continues to be at the forefront among our peers in the United States and even worldwide. We have tackled the backlog of claims and provided the critical venue for injured workers and their employers to be heard all the while keeping people safe. I am incredibly proud of our team and our community who made this possible.

This report is an excellent resource for every stakeholder, and it is included on our website to maximize its availability to the public. The data collected and presented is extensive and highlights the facts and trends affecting Maryland workers, employers, and insurers. Amy S. Lackington and her colleagues deserve accolades for their work in bringing this publication to fruition.

This will be my last Annual Report, so it is bittersweet to thank our partners and leaders in government. Governor Larry Hogan and the General Assembly have been indispensable supporters. I also extend my gratitude to the Legislative Oversight Committee, the Maryland Workers’ Compensation Educational Association, the Medical Fee Guide Committee, and the Budget Advisory Committee. Without question, together, we have served Maryland and its citizens with distinction.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, which appears to read "R. Karl Aumann". The signature is fluid and cursive.

R. Karl Aumann

## THE COMMISSION AT A GLANCE

The Maryland Workers' Compensation Commission (the "Commission" or "WCC") is an Independent Agency within the Executive Branch of Maryland State Government. *See generally*, Md. Code Ann., Labor and Employment Article ("LE"), §§ 9-101 - 9-1201. Appointed by the Governor with Senate advice and consent, the Commission's ten members serve twelve-year terms. LE § 9-302. The Governor names the chair. LE § 9-303.

Under Administration, work of the WCC is carried out by three departments: Finance, Information Technology, and Operations.

- a. Finance oversees Fiscal Services, Insurance Programs, Compliance and Reporting, Security and Personnel, and is aided by the Budget Advisory Committee.
- b. Information Technology oversees Software and Database Development, Systems and Networks, Information Security, Datacenters and Technical Customer Support.
- c. Operations oversees Court Reporting, Hearings, Claims Processing, Interpreter Services, Public Service, Appeals, Document Processing and Support Services (Medical Fee Guide Publisher, Vocational Rehabilitation Certification and Registry).
- d. WCC also is aided by the Advisory Committee on the Registration of Rehabilitation Practitioners, and the Medical Fee Guide Revision Committee.

The WCC administers the Workers' Compensation Law and adjudicates claims for compensation arising under the law. *See generally*, Md. Code Ann., Labor and Employment Article ("LE"), §§ 9-301—9-316. Claims are filed and processed by the WCC which hears contested cases throughout the State. Claimants requiring rehabilitation are referred by the Commission to appropriate rehabilitation service providers.

Employers file a First Report of Injury form with the Commission after a qualifying employee injury occurs. If the injured worker files a claim for benefits within the statutory time limits, an Employee Claim file is created. An Employee Claim for benefits may also be filed for occupational disease under specialized statutory definitions. Although not directly subject to HIPAA as a covered entity or trading partner, WCC adheres to strict data privacy protections. Access to non-public data and document images is restricted.

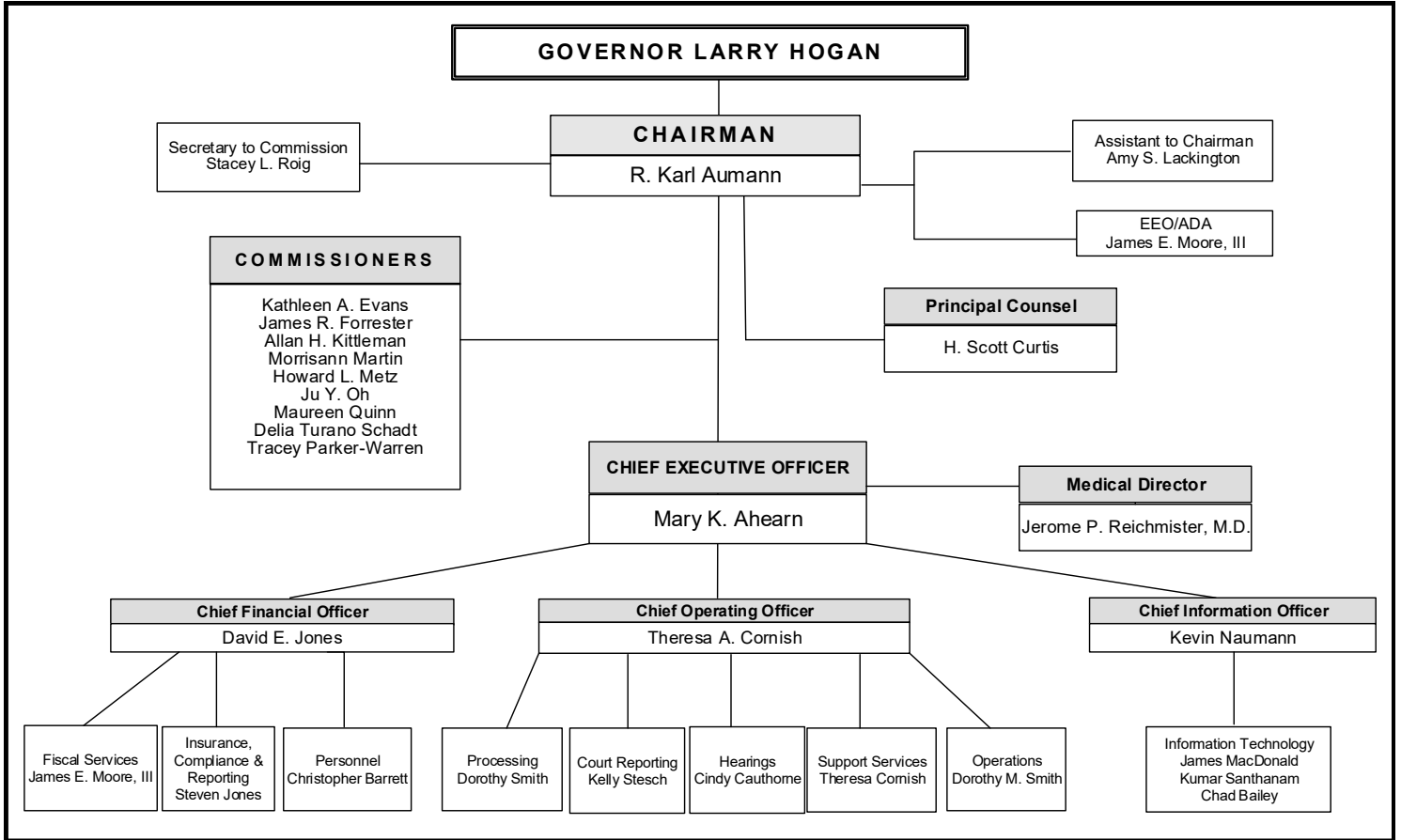
The Commission functions similarly to a judicial system in adjudicating the disputed claims of injured workers in Maryland. A case may be set for one or more hearings before a Commissioner. The Commissioner makes decisions based on issues raised and create Commission orders. Appeals of Commission decisions are sent to one of Maryland's 24 county or municipal circuit courts. The WCC is required to provide certain notifications to parties and, on request, case related documents to the circuit courts.

The WCC schedules and conducts hearings at multiple hearing sites strategically located across the State. Hearing sites are located in Abingdon, Baltimore City, Beltsville, Cambridge, Cumberland, Frederick, and LaPlata. Commissioners rotate among the hearing locations. The WCC coordinates and schedules language and hearing interpreters for case hearings. The interpreter service is available upon request by a party in the case at no charge to the parties. Interpreters are sourced from a combination of in-house and outside services.

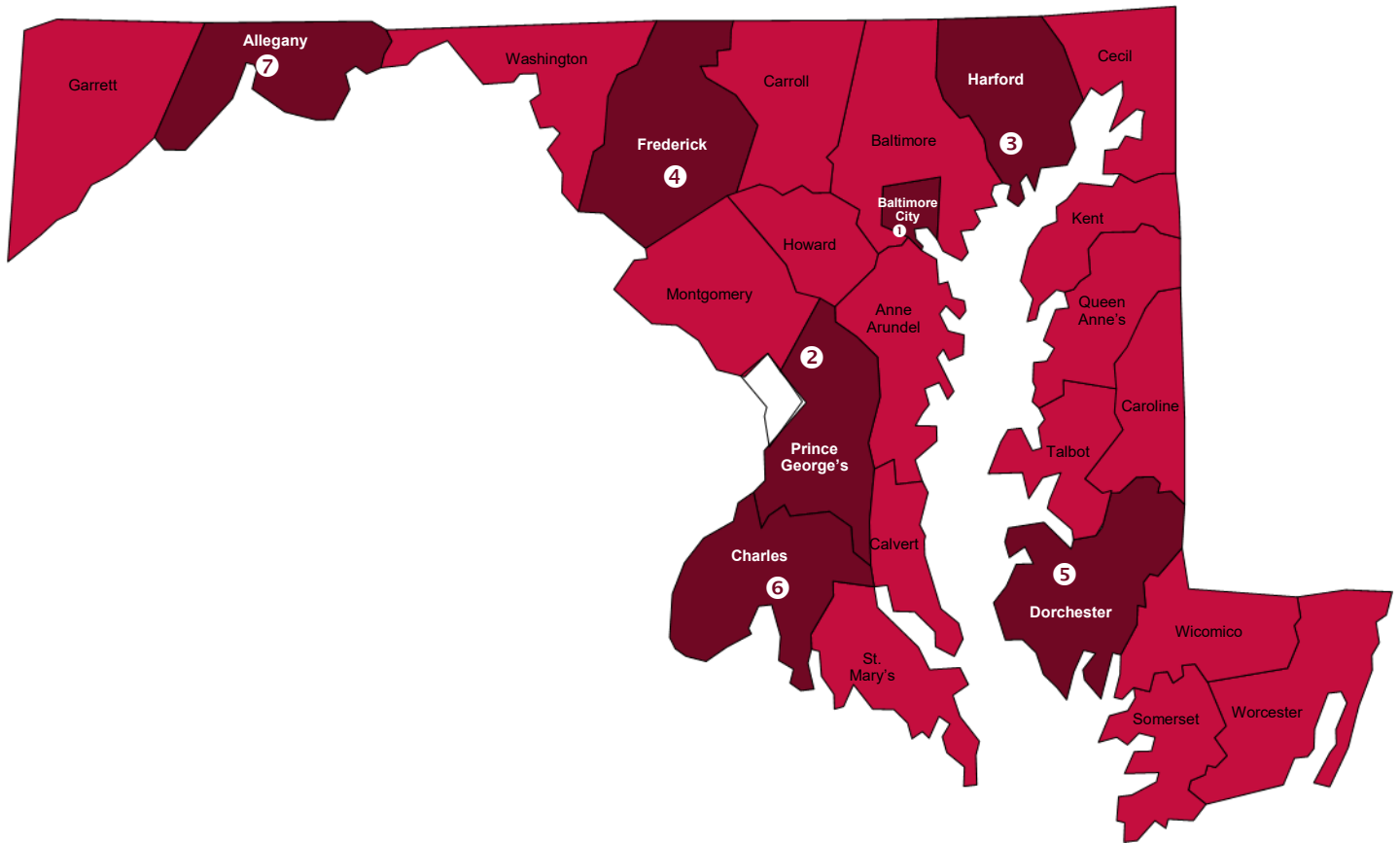
The Commission also:

- Tracks and orders employer compliance with workers' compensation insurance requirements.
- Processes attorney registrations for admission to worker's compensation law practice in Maryland.
- Assesses insurers for amounts based on the size of employer payrolls in Maryland for which they have written workers' compensation insurance policies.
- Oversees the self-insurance program and tracks the financial health of self-insured employers and establishes security deposit requirements.
- Registers and certifies vocational rehabilitation practitioners and providers, and tracks their continuing education.
- Updates and publishes an annual medical fee guide and handles medical fee dispute resolution. The Commission maintains internal subject matter expertise and internal consultative services on workplace injury related medical topics.

**ORGANIZATIONAL CHART**  
**Workers' Compensation Commission**



HEARING SITE LOCATIONS



- 1. BALTIMORE CITY  
Commission Headquarters and Hearing Rooms  
10 East Baltimore Street, 4th Floor  
Baltimore, MD 21202
- 2. CENTRAL REGIONAL  
4780 Corridor Place, Suite D  
Beltsville, MD 20705
- 3. NORTH EAST REGIONAL  
3465 Box Hill Corporate Center Drive, Suite E  
Abingdon, MD 21009
- 4. NORTH WEST REGIONAL  
1890 N. Market Street, Suite 200  
Frederick, MD 21701

- 5. EASTERN REGIONAL  
828 Airpax Road, Building B, Suite 400  
Cambridge, MD 21613
- 6. SOUTHERN REGIONAL  
403 East Charles Street  
La Plata, MD 20646
- 7. WESTERN MARYLAND  
Comfort Inn & Suites  
1216 National Highway  
Lavale, MD 21502

BIOGRAPHIES

**R. Karl Aumann, *Chairman***



R. Karl Aumann was appointed to the Maryland Workers' Compensation Commission in February 2005, and subsequently named Chairman in October of that year. Initially appointed by Governor Robert Ehrlich, in 2017 he was reappointed by Governor Larry Hogan. Immediately prior to this appointment, he served as Maryland's Secretary of State. He earned a B.A. from Loyola University in Maryland in 1982 and his J.D. in 1985 from the University of Baltimore, School of Law. Chairman Aumann was an associate with the Towson firm of Power & Mosner and later with the Baltimore office of Miles & Stockbridge. In 1991, President George H.W. Bush appointed

him Counsel and Senior Policy Advisor to the Appalachian Regional Commission. From 1994 until 2003, Chairman Aumann served as Chief Administrator and District Director for Congressman Robert Ehrlich. He is a Board member and past-president of SAWCA and is chair of the International Committee of the IAIABC. Elected as a Fellow of the College of Workers' Compensation Lawyers in 2015, he has also served since 2010 on the board of the National Association of Workers' Compensation Judiciary, and since 2006 on the Maryland Workers' Compensation Educational Association board of directors.

**Mary K. Ahearn, *Chief Executive Officer***



Mary Ahearn was appointed Executive Director of the Workers' Compensation Commission in 2003, and has been a member since 1999. She graduated summa cum laude from the College of Notre Dame with a Bachelor of Arts in Business with a dual emphasis in Management and Human Resource Management. She served for several years as a Board member of the Maryland Chapter of the Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation. She is a past president

of the Southern Association of Workers' Compensation Administrators (SAWCA) and is a past president of the International Association of Industrial Accident Boards & Commissions (IAIABC). In 2013, she served on the Governor's Task Force to Study Temporary Disability Insurance Programs & the Process for Assisting Individuals with Disabilities at Local Departments of Social Services.

BIOGRAPHIES

**Kathleen A. Evans, *Commissioner***



Kathleen A. Evans was appointed a member of the Maryland Workers' Compensation Commission by Governor Lawrence J. Hogan, Jr., in 2015. She received her Bachelor of Arts from the University of Maryland in 1979 and earned her Juris Doctorate from the University of Baltimore Law School in 1982. Commissioner Evans served as a prosecutor in both Anne Arundel County and Prince George's County for 19 years. During her tenure as an Assistant State's Attorney, Commissioner Evans prosecuted all major violent crime felonies occurring throughout Anne Arundel County and Prince George's County including homicides, armed robberies, attempted murders and serious assaults, and related firearms, weapons, and drug felonies. She

served as the Assistant Division Chief of the Homicide and Narcotics Division in Prince George's County, Chief of the District Court Division in Anne Arundel County, and Chief of the Narcotics Unit in Prince George's County. Commissioner Evans is a member of the Maryland State Bar Association, the Maryland State's Attorney's Association, the Anne Arundel County Bar Association, and the Women's Bar Association, to name a few. She actively participates in many business and civic organizations and has been the recipient of numerous federal, state and local level awards for her work as a prosecutor. Commissioner Evans has been a frequent speaker for over 20 years on criminal and law enforcement related matters.

**James R. Forrester, *Commissioner***



James R. Forrester was appointed a member of the Maryland Workers' Compensation Commission in 2018 by Governor Lawrence J. Hogan, Jr. He is a graduate of Randolph-Macon College and the University of Baltimore's Merrick School of Business and School of Law. He earned a Master of Business Administration in 1995 and a Juris Doctor in 1998, with honors. In 1999, he joined the Law Offices of Ileen M. Ticer as an Associate Claims Attorney. Thereafter, he joined Semmes Bowen & Semmes, P.C. in the firm's Workers' Compensation and Employers' Liability Department, having been elected a Principal in 2009.

Throughout his years in legal practice, Commissioner Forrester has concentrated in the area of workers' compensation, appearing before all levels of the judiciary in the State of Maryland. He is also licensed and practiced in the District of Columbia. He served as President and Member of the Executive Board of the Baltimore Claims Association as well as the Co-Chair of the Workers' Compensation Section of the Maryland Defense Counsel. He also serves in a leadership role with several civic organizations.



BIOGRAPHIES

**Allan H. Kittleman, *Commissioner***



On November 28, 2018 Governor Larry Hogan announced the appointment of Allan H. Kittleman to the Maryland Workers' Compensation Commission. Commissioner Kittleman graduated with honors from the University of Maryland School of Law with a J.D. in 1988. He received his bachelor's degree in political science from the University of Maryland, Baltimore County in 1981. After receiving his J.D. degree, he joined Smith, Somerville & Case. In 1991, he joined Herwig & Humphreys where he

became a partner. Subsequently, he became "of counsel" at Godwin, Erlandson, Vernon and Daney. Throughout his 25 years in legal practice, Commissioner Kittleman concentrated his practice in the defense of workers' compensation claims in Maryland and the District of Columbia. Commissioner Kittleman also previously served on the Howard County Council (1998-2004), in the Maryland State Senate (2004-2014) and as the Howard County Executive (2014-2018).

**Morrisann Martin, *Commissioner***



Morrisann Martin was appointed a member of the Maryland Workers' Compensation Commission in September 2019. Commissioner Martin is a graduate of Goucher College, and earned her Juris Doctor from the University of Baltimore School of Law. She was previously a partner at Tostanoski & Martin, and a partner at the firm of Downs, Ward, Bender, Hauptmann, and Herzog, P.A. (formerly Morgan Carlo Downs, P.A.) After having spent 10 years in the insurance industry as an adjuster, claims supervisor, and home office examiner, her legal career was in private practice

representing employers, insurers, uninsured employers, and self-insured employers before the Maryland Workers' Compensation Commission and Circuit Courts. She is a member of the Maryland State Bar Association's Negligence, Insurance, and Workers' Compensation Section, as well as the Workers' Compensation Section of Maryland Defense Counsel, Inc. She served numerous years on the board of MSIECA (Maryland Self-Insurers' and Employers' Compensation Association, Inc.), and has been a lecturer and presenter at the MWCEA annual conference.

BIOGRAPHIES

**Howard L. Metz, *Commissioner***



On November 28, 2018 Governor Larry Hogan announced the appointment of Howard L. Metz to the Maryland Workers' Compensation Commission. Commissioner Metz graduated from the State University of New Jersey School of Law in 1985. He received his bachelor's degree from The American University in 1982. Mr. Metz has over 30 years of experience in workers' compensation and as a litigation attorney representing clients in trials before the Maryland Circuit and District Courts and U.S. District Court including courts in Pennsylvania and New Jersey. He has briefed and argued cases before the Maryland

Court of Appeals, Court of Special Appeals and U.S. Court of Appeals for the Fourth Circuit. In addition to practicing before the Maryland Workers' Compensation Commission, Mr. Metz has appeared before the Social Security Administration and other State and Federal Agencies. He has been a court appointed mediator for the Circuit Court for Frederick County since 2000 and for the Circuit Court for Washington County since 2008. He frequently lectures and is a continuing legal education instruction in the areas of Workers' Compensation law and mediation practice.

**Ju Y. Oh, *Commissioner***



Ju Y. Oh was appointed to the Maryland Workers' Compensation Commission by Governor Larry Hogan on July 1, 2019. Formerly a Partner at Humphreys, McLaughlin & McAleer, LLC, Commissioner Oh represented employers, insurers and policyholders before all levels of

the Maryland judicial system. Ms. Oh also appeared before the District of Columbia Office of Workers' Compensation. She has been a practicing member of the Maryland State Bar since 2004, and received her J.D. from the University of Baltimore School of Law in 2004.

**Maureen Quinn, *Commissioner***



Maureen Quinn was appointed a member of the Maryland Workers' Compensation Commission in 2002 by Governor Parris N. Glendening. She graduated from Temple University School of Law with a J.D. in 1987. Commissioner Quinn received her bachelor's degree in 1982 from American University, where she was a recipient of the Stafford Cassell Award for Governmental

Leadership. She was engaged in the private practice of law as a trial attorney from 1987 until 2002. She established her own law firm in 1995 and was primarily focused on general civil litigation. Commissioner Quinn is an adjunct professor at the University of Maryland University College where she teaches Business Ethics.

BIOGRAPHIES

**Delia Turano Schadt, *Commissioner***



Delia Turano Schadt was appointed a member of the Maryland Workers' Compensation Commission in November 2011. A native of Cumberland, Maryland, she is a graduate of James Madison University, and she earned her Juris Doctor from The University of Dayton School of Law. She served as judicial clerk to The Honorable J. Frederick Sharer and The Honorable Gary G. Leasure in the Circuit Court for Allegany County. Commissioner Schadt practiced workers' compensation law as a trial attorney with the Injured Workers' Insurance Fund, until she was appointed an Assistant Attorney General with the Maryland Office of the Attorney General.

She served as Board Counsel to several health occupation licensing boards with the Department of Health and Mental Hygiene until her appointment to the Commission. Commissioner Schadt is the Commissioners' representative to the Maryland State Bar Association's Negligence, Insurance, and Workers' Compensation Section. She serves on the International Association of Industrial Accident Boards & Commissions' (IAIABC) Medical Issues Committee and is a member of the National Association of Workers' Compensation Judiciary. She has lectured extensively on various workers compensation matters over the years.

**Tracey Parker-Warren, *Commissioner***



Tracey Warren was appointed a member of the Maryland Workers' Compensation Commission in June 2016 by Governor Lawrence J. Hogan, Jr. Immediately prior to this appointment, she served as an Administrative Law Judge in the Office of Administrative Hearings. She graduated *cum laude* from the University of Baltimore School of Law. Commissioner Warren subsequently clerked for The Honorable Arrie W. Davis (Ret.), Court of Special

Appeals of Maryland, and through the US Attorney General's Honors Program, she served as Attorney Advisor for the Department of Justice. She was also an attorney with the US Department of Veterans Affairs. She is a member of the Board of Regents for Morgan State University and a member of the Appellate Judicial Nominating Commission. She is a member of the bars of Maryland, the District of Columbia, and the Supreme Court of the United States.

## AGENCY HIGHLIGHTS AND PROCESS IMPROVEMENTS

### WORKERS' COMPENSATION PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATIONS

The success of the Maryland Workers' Compensation Commission rests largely on a strong foundation of highly talented and knowledgeable Commissioners and staff. Continuing professional development for both is one of the key elements in the Commission's quest to provide a smooth process and positive outcome in claims adjudication. Each year the Commissioners and staff are actively involved in educational opportunities sponsored by local, national and international workers' compensation professional associations.

### NEW FORMS, REVISION, AND REPRINTED

- ◆ Notice to Withdraw Appearance (WCC C25R, 11/2021)
- ◆ Motion to Withdraw Appearance (WCC C27, 11/2021)
- ◆ Stipulation of Parties (WCC H34, 7/2021)
- ◆ Subpoena/Subpoena Duces Tecum (WCC H08, 10/2021)
- ◆ Dependent's Claim for Death Benefits (WCC C35, 2/2022)
- ◆ Issues Form (WCC H24R, 3/2022)

### HIGHLIGHTS AND PROCESS IMPROVEMENTS

#### **Enterprise Modernization**

- ◆ This year, management of the Enterprise Modernization project was transitioned from vendor resources to internal State resources which has reduced costs and increased productivity throughout the project team. Over 30 processes have been prepared for Initial Release. Infrastructure has improved, with Cloud Migration and Database Development taking the spotlight. Various legacy reports have been successfully mapped, facilitating rapid report development. Intensive on-site training has begun for internal users and is set to begin for a select group of Beta Testers.

#### **Security Enhancements**

- ◆ The Commission understands the importance and responsibility of securing data of the citizens we serve. We take every opportunity to improve upon security systems whenever possible. This year, we built upon, and expanded the scope of the tools introduced in 2021 to ensure the safety of

Commission data such as data loss prevention, advanced threat protection, endpoint detection and response, and automated vulnerability assessments.

#### **Communications Consolidation**

- ◆ This year, we began the transition to using unified tools, agents, and hardware to enhance the user experience and simplify internal and external communications methods. Furthermore, by reducing the sprawl of existing tools we have simplified and streamlined the management of telecommunications systems and authentication platforms.

#### **Cases Pending**

- ◆ COVID presented many challenges for the Commission; especially relating to scheduling and holding hearings. During the peak of its course, the Commission experienced a higher than usual case load of cases pending hearings as it transitioned back to standard case scheduling.
- ◆ At the close of FY2021, the Commission had almost 6,000 cases pending a hearing; of which approximately 3,000 were pending over 30 days. As we closed out FY2022, the Commission successfully returned to its pre-COVID pending status with approximately 1,900 cases pending a hearing; of which only 290 cases were pending over 30 days.

#### **Settlements**

- ◆ The Commission processed a total of 7,838 settlements at intake compared to 6,986 in FY2021. There were 471 settlements returned at intake resulting in an overall 6% return rate for the year.
- ◆ The intake stage is the point at which settlements are received at the Commission and reviewed for accuracy and completion prior to being sent to a Commissioner for a decision. The Commission continues to experience a high rate of return due to inaccurate or missing information.

#### **Employer Compliance**

- ◆ 83,053 searches were performed using the Coverage Verification mobile app and employer details were provided on 30,599 searches.
- ◆ Two Show Cause hearings were scheduled which resulted in the issuance of 61 penalty orders totaling \$435,800.

## AGENCY HIGHLIGHTS AND PROCESS IMPROVEMENTS

### Statistics

- ◆ 30,738 statistical coding transactions were processed by the Insurance, Compliance, and Reporting Division. Statistical coding transactions capture award information including, but not limited to, class code of employee, industry, cause of injury and body part injured. This information is summarized in the annual report and used for analysis purposes from year to year.

### Self-Insurance

- ◆ 36 employers were scheduled for audit in the Fiscal Year to verify the accuracy and validity of their reporting to the Commission. Payroll covered by these audits totaled approximately \$12.7 billion.

### Facilities

- ◆ In October 2021 the agency executed the renewal of the existing lease agreement for its principal offices in Baltimore City. This contract is a 10-year contract with a single 5-year renewal option for approximately 54,000 square feet of combined office/cubicle and hearing room space. This lease renewal was negotiated to contain a number of tenant improvements including new carpeting and painting of all floors, and upgrades of lighting fixtures and thermostats.

### Report on Fraud Unit

- ◆ Labor and Employment Article, § 9-310.2, Annotated Code of Maryland, requires the Commission to refer to the Insurance Fraud Division of the Maryland Insurance Administration any case in which it is established by a preponderance of the evidence, after a hearing, that a person knowingly affected or knowingly attempted to affect the payment of compensation benefits, fees, or expenses under the Workers' Compensation Act by means of a fraudulent representation. Although the Commission did not make any direct referrals during fiscal year 2022, the Commission continued to review cases for possible referral to the Insurance Fraud Division and assisted the Fraud Division with cases referred directly by insurance carriers. The cases did not come before the Commission for a hearing requesting a referral for fraud.

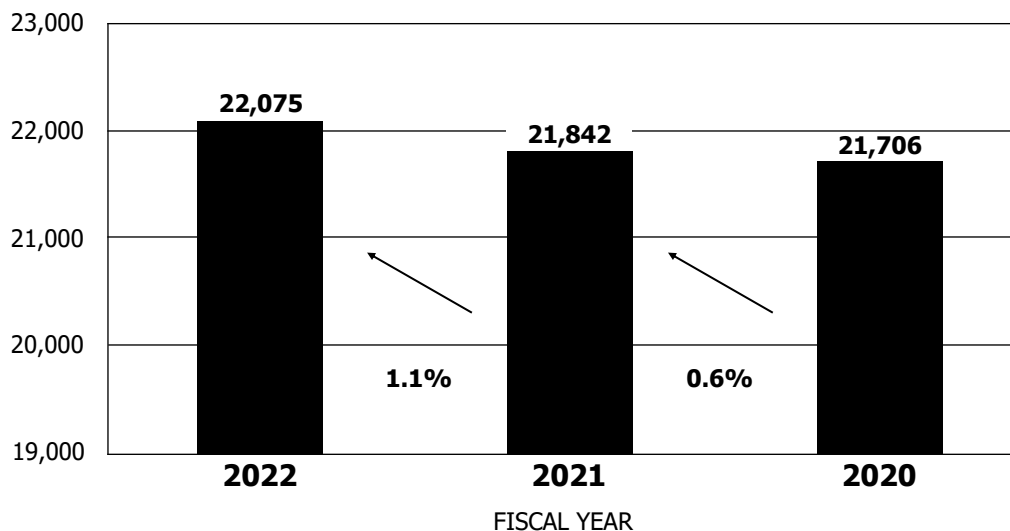


*Maryland Workers' Compensation Commission's Court Reporters*

## AGENCY PERFORMANCE

### TABLES AND CHARTS

FIGURE 1 • Filed Claims



# MARYLAND WORKERS' COMPENSATION COMMISSION

**FIGURE 2 • Filed Claims by Industry**

INDUSTRIES WITH MORE THAN 100 FILED CLAIMS	FISCAL YEAR					
	2022		2021		2020	
	Count	Percent	Count	Percent	Count	Percent
Policemen - Security	1,910	8.7%	1,950	8.9%	1,941	8.9%
Colleges Or Schools Incl. Day Care	1,200	5.4%	545	2.5%	1,209	5.6%
Municipal Township County Or State Employees N.O.C.	894	4.0%	870	4.0%	935	4.3%
<b>TOP 3 INDUSTRIES IN FILED CLAIMS</b>	<b>4,004</b>	<b>18.1%</b>	<b>3,365</b>	<b>15.4%</b>	<b>4,085</b>	<b>18.8%</b>
Truckmen N.O.C.	879	4.0%	1,146	5.2%	1,026	4.7%
Storage Warehouses General Merchandise N.O.C.	808	3.7%	992	4.5%	779	3.6%
Hospitals - All Other Employees	786	3.6%	862	3.9%	812	3.7%
Firemen Incl. Volunteer Dept & Ambulance Service	701	3.2%	667	3.1%	687	3.2%
Unclassified (Insufficient Data)	641	2.9%	230	1.1%	246	1.1%
Taxicab And Bus Companies	613	2.8%	459	2.1%	679	3.1%
Hotels, Restaurants, Bars & Nightclubs	539	2.4%	526	2.4%	638	2.9%
Meat Combined Grocery And Provision Stores Retail	496	2.2%	456	2.1%	509	2.4%
Mail & Parcel Delivery Employees, Salespersons & Drivers	478	2.2%	366	1.7%	280	1.3%
Convalescent Or Nursing Homes All Employees	431	2.0%	930	4.3%	732	3.4%
Building, Razing Or Moving - General Construction	404	1.8%	627	2.9%	545	2.5%
Buildings Operation By Contractors	347	1.6%	371	1.7%	401	1.8%
Automobile Garages Or Repair Shops Inc. Dealers	338	1.5%	347	1.6%	359	1.7%
Store Risks Wholesale Or Combined N.O.C. K-MART	242	1.1%	245	1.1%	245	1.1%
Physicians Incl. Clerical	239	1.1%	320	1.5%	277	1.3%
Aircraft Operation All Other Employees	229	1.0%	128	0.6%	208	1.0%
Charitable Organizations (Goodwill)	204	0.9%	210	1.0%	244	1.1%
Clerical Office Employees N.O.C.	187	0.8%	241	1.1%	264	1.2%
Landscape & Tree Surgery	175	0.8%	177	0.8%	154	0.7%
Carpentry N.O.C. - Renovations	141	0.6%	114	0.5%	146	0.7%
Garbage Refuse Collecting	135	0.6%	132	0.6%	131	0.6%
Employment Agencies	131	0.6%	132	0.6%	171	0.8%
Hardware Stores - Locksmiths	125	0.6%	136	0.6%	N/A	
Sheet Metal Work Incl. Air Conditioning & Refrigeration	119	0.5%	141	0.6%	123	0.6%
Clothing Or Dry Goods Stores Retail	108	0.5%	108	0.5%	132	0.6%
Electrical Wiring In Buildings	107	0.5%	108	0.5%	N/A	
Public Health Nursing Association All Employees	105	0.5%	N/A		N/A	
Housing Authorities - Apts & Condos Incl. Real Estate	N/A		106	0.5%	N/A	
Department Stores Retail	N/A		119	0.5%	N/A	
Plumbing-Steam Fitting	N/A		103	0.5%	108	0.5%
<b>Industries With More Than 100 Filed Claims</b>	<b>9,708</b>	<b>44.0%</b>	<b>10,499</b>	<b>48.1%</b>	<b>9,896</b>	<b>45.6%</b>
<b>Number Of Industry Groups Represented</b>	<b>30</b>		<b>32</b>		<b>28</b>	
<b>All Other</b>	<b>8,363</b>	<b>37.9%</b>	<b>7,978</b>	<b>36.5%</b>	<b>7,725</b>	<b>35.6%</b>
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>22,075</b>	<b>100.0%</b>	<b>21,842</b>	<b>100.0%</b>	<b>21,706</b>	<b>100.0%</b>

Source: Commission Data, July 2022

Note: Chart represents filed claims in which an award has been ordered.

NOC: Not Otherwise Classified

FIGURE 3 • Awards According to Weeks of Disability and Body Part

FISCAL YEAR 2022					
TOP TEN BODY PARTS DISABLED					
BODY PART	0—74 Weeks	75—249 Weeks	Greater than 249 Weeks	Total	Percent of Total
Thorax-Lower (Back)	1,328	268	9	1,608	21.6%
Shoulders	746	649	11	1,406	18.9%
Knees	754	244	3	1,001	13.4%
Spinal Cord	586	173	8	767	10.3%
Neck	563	155	1	721	9.7%
Ankle or Ankle and Leg	370	102	3	475	6.4%
Hand or Hands	369	58	1	429	5.8%
Legs	276	99	12	387	5.2%
Wrists	290	71	1	362	4.9%
Neurological or Psychiatric Disability	187	80	16	283	3.8%
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>5,469</b>	<b>1,899</b>	<b>65</b>	<b>7,439</b>	<b>100.0%</b>
<b>PERCENT OF TOTAL</b>	<b>73.4%</b>	<b>25.9%</b>	<b>0.7%</b>	<b>100.0%</b>	

Source: Commission Data, July 2022

FIGURE 4 • Permanency Awards According to Weeks of Disability

FISCAL YEAR	0—74 Weeks	75—249 Weeks	Greater than 249 Weeks	Total
2022	7,292	2,392	88	<b>9,772</b>
	74.6%	24.5%	0.9%	<b>100.0%</b>
2021	6,803	2,301	90	<b>9,194</b>
	74.0%	25.0%	1.0%	<b>100.0%</b>
2020	6,705	2,135	100	<b>8,940</b>
	75.0%	23.9%	1.1%	<b>100.0%</b>

Source: Commission Data, July 2022





# MARYLAND WORKERS' COMPENSATION COMMISSION

**FIGURE 5 • Permanency, Fatality, and Compromise Awards by Type of Award**

TYPE	FISCAL YEAR								
	2022			2021			2020		
	Count	Amount	Average	Count	Amount	Average	Count	Amount	Average
<b>Permanent Total</b> Percent Change - Prior Year	26 8.3%	\$2,380,771 49.3%	\$91,568 37.8%	24 -4.0%	\$1,594,642 -16.3%	\$66,443 -12.8%	25 -49.0%	\$1,904,291 -64.3%	\$76,172 -28.3%
<b>Permanent Partial</b> Percent Change - Prior Year	9,772 6.3%	177,294,805 7.0%	18,143 0.7%	9,195 2.9%	165,694,054 3.6%	18,020 0.7%	8,937 -13.6%	159,977,297 -19.9%	17,901 -7.2%
<b>Fatality</b> Percent Change - Prior Year	45 12.5%	7,192,683 -30.2%	159,837 -37.9%	40 2.6%	10,297,712 3.9%	257,443 1.3%	39 -13.3%	9,912,065 27.0%	254,156 46.5%
<b>Compromise</b> Percent Change - Prior Year	6,370 22.5%	187,062,465 11.2%	29,366 -9.3%	5,198 -17.1%	168,267,746 -15.5%	32,372 2.0%	6,487 -0.1%	199,035,821 18.9%	31,739 18.9%
<b>Total</b> Percent Change - Prior Year	16,213 12.1%	373,930,724 8.1%	23,064 -3.6%	14,457 -5.3%	345,854,154 -6.7%	23,923 -1.5%	15,272 -8.6%	370,829,474 -2.4%	24,282 6.8%
<b>Compromise as a Percent of Permanent Partials</b>		105.5%	161.9%		101.5%	179.6%		121.4%	177.3%

Source: Commission Data, July 2022

**FIGURE 6 • Commission Claims Data**

COMMISSION CLAIM ACTIONS	FISCAL YEAR					
	2022		2021		2020	
	Count	Percent	Count	Percent	Count	Percent
First Reports of Injury	87,343		78,596		89,012	
Total Filed Claims	22,075		21,842		21,706	
Disputed Accidental Injury Claims	10,721	48.6%	8,433	38.6%	10,120	46.6%
Temporary Total Awards	13,561	61.4%	14,084	64.5%	13,588	62.6%
Claims Settled	6,370	28.8%	5,210	23.9%	6,487	29.9%
Claims Deferred	5,381	24.4%	4,913	22.5%	5,842	26.9%
Claims Disallowed by Commission	702	3.2%	595	2.7%	464	2.1%

Source: Commission Data, July 2022

FIGURE 7 • Fatalities by Industry Grouping

INDUSTRY GROUP	Employment <sup>(1)</sup>	FISCAL YEAR		
		Fatalities <sup>(2)</sup>		
		2022	2021	2020
STATE GOVERNMENT	96,914	3	6	3
LOCAL GOVERNMENT	245,520	26	40	19
<b>GOVERNMENT SECTOR TOTAL</b>	<b>342,434</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>46</b>	<b>22</b>
<b>GOOD PRODUCING</b>				
Natural Resources and Mining	7,497	0	0	2
Construction	166,444	8	6	8
Manufacturing	109,819	0	1	0
<b>SERVICE PROVIDING</b>				
Trades, Transportation , and Utilities	479,455	5	4	1
Information Technology	34,847	0	0	0
Telecommunications	10,649	0	0	0
Financial Activities	129,196	0	1	0
Professional and Business Services	495,203	1	1	0
Education and Health Services	427,925	0	7	3
Leisure and Hospitality	240,291	0	0	0
Other Services	101,492	8	5	0
UNCLASSIFIED	495	11	16	8
<b>PRIVATE SECTOR TOTAL ALL INDUSTRIES</b>	<b>2,203,313</b>	<b>33</b>	<b>41</b>	<b>22</b>
<b>TOTAL EMPLOYMENT/FATALITIES</b>	<b>2,545,747</b>	<b>62</b>	<b>87</b>	<b>44</b>

Source: <sup>(1)</sup> DOL 4th Quarter 2021

<sup>(2)</sup> Commission Data, July 2022



FIGURE 8 • Filed Claims by Gender and Age

FISCAL YEAR 2022			
Gender	Age Group	Claims Filed	Percent
Male	Unknown	0	0.0%
Male	10 - 19	194	0.9%
Male	20 - 29	2,304	10.4%
Male	30 - 39	3,388	15.3%
Male	40 - 49	2,747	12.4%
Male	50 - 59	2,895	13.1%
Male	60 - 69	1,522	6.9%
Male	70 - 79	279	1.3%
Male	80 - 89	40	0.2%
		<b>Total 13,369</b>	<b>60.5%</b>
Female	Unknown	0	0.0%
Female	10 - 19	161	0.7%
Female	20 - 29	1,288	5.8%
Female	30 - 39	1,821	8.2%
Female	40 - 49	1,783	8.1%
Female	50 - 59	2,256	10.2%
Female	60 - 69	1,194	5.4%
Female	70 - 79	192	0.9%
Female	80 - 89	11	0.0%
		<b>Total 8,706</b>	<b>39.3%</b>
		<b>Total Filed Claims 22,075</b>	<b>100.0%</b>

Source: Commission Data, July 2022



FIGURE 9 • Source of Appeals

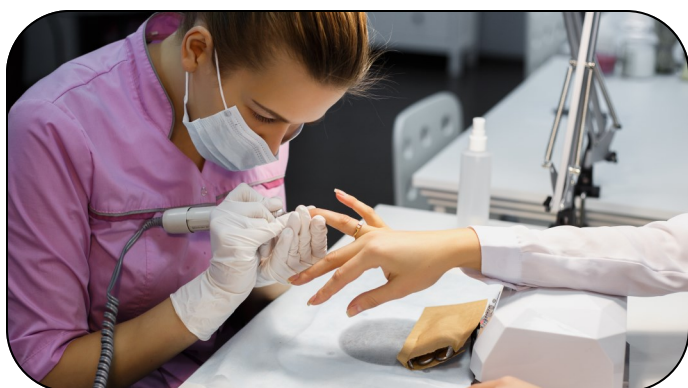
SOURCE	FISCAL YEAR		
	2022	2021	2020
Claimant	1,176	1,040	902
Employer/Insurer	534	544	566
Subsequent Injury Fund	50	33	38
Uninsured Employers' Fund	16	21	10
Other Party	3	1	4
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>1,779</b>	<b>1,639</b>	<b>1,520</b>

Source: Commission Data, July 2022

FIGURE 10 • Hearing Transcripts

CATEGORY	FISCAL YEAR		
	2022	2021	2020
Non Appeal Transcripts	1,052	989	985
Appeal Transcripts	1,461	1,158	1,288

Source: Commission Data, July 2022



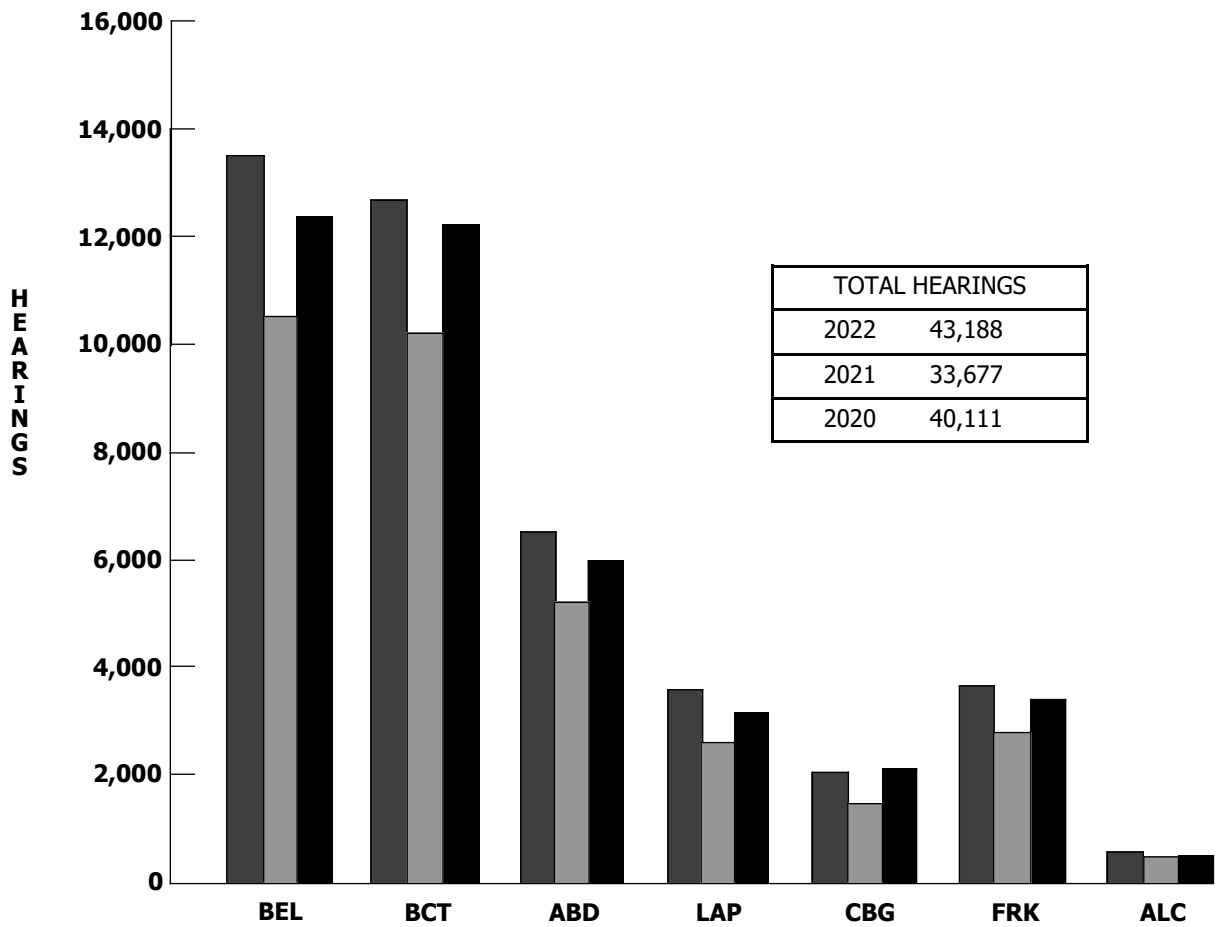
# MARYLAND WORKERS' COMPENSATION COMMISSION

**FIGURE 11 • Source of Claims and Appeals by Political Subdivision**

JURISDICTIONS	FISCAL YEAR					
	2022		2021		2020	
	Claims	Appeals	Claims	Appeals	Claims	Appeals
Baltimore County	3,832	284	3,841	258	3,856	264
Prince George's County	2,969	258	2,683	233	2,692	162
Baltimore City	2,922	178	2,989	190	3,110	166
Montgomery County	1,963	186	1,884	155	2,042	139
Anne Arundel County	1,787	118	1,854	127	1,698	126
Harford County	946	69	943	76	888	57
<b>SIX MAJOR METRO AREAS - COUNT</b>	<b>14,419</b>	<b>1,093</b>	<b>14,194</b>	<b>1,039</b>	<b>14,286</b>	<b>914</b>
<b>Percent of Total Filed Claims</b>	<b>65.3%</b>	<b>61.4%</b>	<b>65.0%</b>	<b>63.4%</b>	<b>65.8%</b>	<b>60.1%</b>
Frederick County	884	66	815	57	913	56
Howard County	589	54	587	40	635	28
Washington County	569	43	637	37	551	37
Carroll County	521	23	559	46	527	34
Charles County	507	59	480	31	455	41
Wicomico County	364	31	399	22	351	18
Calvert County	323	15	344	29	362	30
St. Mary's County	278	31	249	16	215	21
Cecil County	251	22	279	17	114	15
Allegany County	216	18	227	23	215	18
Queen Anne's County	204	14	187	13	178	16
Dorchester County	181	13	164	10	161	14
Caroline County	151	22	163	14	193	18
Worcester County	132	12	142	7	159	18
Talbot County	97	3	87	2	90	7
Garrett County	92	2	118	3	82	2
Somerset County	68	9	69	3	80	7
Kent County	50	2	50	4	45	2
<b>EIGHTEEN NON-METRO AREAS - COUNT</b>	<b>5,477</b>	<b>439</b>	<b>5,556</b>	<b>374</b>	<b>5,326</b>	<b>382</b>
<b>Percent of Total Filed Claims/Appeals</b>	<b>24.8%</b>	<b>24.7%</b>	<b>25.4%</b>	<b>22.8%</b>	<b>24.5%</b>	<b>25.1%</b>
<b>OUT OF STATE CLAIMS - COUNT</b>	<b>2,179</b>	<b>247</b>	<b>2,092</b>	<b>226</b>	<b>2,094</b>	<b>224</b>
<b>Percent of Total Filed Claims</b>	<b>9.9%</b>	<b>13.9%</b>	<b>9.6%</b>	<b>13.8%</b>	<b>9.6%</b>	<b>14.7%</b>
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>22,075</b>	<b>1,779</b>	<b>21,842</b>	<b>1,639</b>	<b>21,706</b>	<b>1,520</b>
<b>PERCENT OF CLAIMS APPEALED</b>		<b>8.1%</b>		<b>7.5%</b>		<b>7.0%</b>

Source: Commission Data, July 2022

**FIGURE 12 • Scheduled Hearing Distribution**



REGIONAL SITES							
	BELTSVILLE	BALTIMORE CITY	ABINGDON	LA PLATA	CAMBRIDGE	FREDERICK	CUMBERLAND
	BEL	BCT	ABD	LAP	CBG	FRK	ALC
<b>2022</b>	13,751	12,633**	6,729	3,606	2,200	3,627	642
<b>2020</b>	10,518	10,215**	5,414	2,582	1,518	2,819	611
<b>2019</b>	12,367	12,253**	6,001	3,139	2,225	3,514	612

\*\*Virtual hearings conducted: FY2022—389, FY2021—738, and FY2020—201. These are included in Baltimore City hearings for reporting purposes.

FIGURE 13 • Interpreter Office Program Statistics

ITEM	FISCAL YEAR		
	2022	2021	Change
Requests	3,089	2,164	42.7%
Interpretations Provided	1,233	1,466	-15.9%
Requests Continued or Withdrawn	1,856	698	165.9%
Spanish Interpretations	863	1,332	-35.2%
All Other Interpretations	370	134	176.1%
Percent Spanish	70.0%	90.9%	-23.0%
Number Of Languages Provided	37	29	27.6%

Source: Commission Data, July 2022

FIGURE 14 • Vocational Rehabilitation Case Management

FISCAL YEAR 2022		
	Count	Percent
<b>Return to Work</b>		
Same Employer, Same Job	973	63.7%
Same Employer, Different Job	95	6.2%
New Employer, Same Occupation	33	2.2%
New Employer, Different Occupation	217	14.2%
Self-Employment	3	0.2%
Medical Issues, Not Employed	78	5.1%
<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>1,399</b>	<b>91.6%</b>
<b>Employment Status Unknown</b>		
Rehabilitation Services Declined	43	2.8%
Rehabilitation Program Dropout	60	4.0%
Claimant Moved Out of State	8	0.5%
Claimant Declined Job Offers	17	1.1%
<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>128</b>	<b>8.4%</b>
<b>Total Vocational Rehabilitation Case Dispositions</b>	<b>1,527</b>	<b>100.0%</b>

Source: Commission Data, July 2022

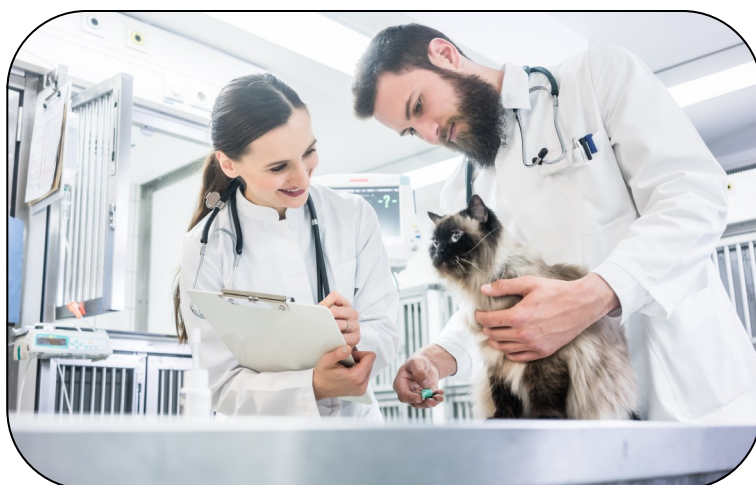
FIGURE 15 • Self-Insurance Program

ITEM	FISCAL YEAR		
	2022	2021	2020
Individual Self-Insurers and 1 Group	85	88	89
Covered Self-Insured Employees <sup>(1)</sup>	469.0 k	467.0 k	462.0 k
Covered Self-Insured Payroll <sup>(1)</sup>	\$27.1 B	\$24.8 B	\$27.1 B
Self-Insured Payroll as Percent of All Covered Payroll	14.6%	14.3%	15.9%
Security Held <sup>(1)</sup>	\$268.6 M	\$256.4 M	\$243.4 M
Commission Orders <sup>(2)</sup>	20	17	9

k = Thousand, M = Million, B = Billion

<sup>(1)</sup> Source: A-01/IC-1 Report 2019 - 2021 Note: Security includes active self-insurers only.

<sup>(2)</sup> Commission Data 2020 - 2022





## MARYLAND WORKERS' COMPENSATION COMMISSION

**FIGURE 16 • Workers' Compensation Premium Rate Ranking**

2020 Ranking	2018 Ranking	2016 Ranking	State	Median Index Rate	State % of Median
1	3	2	New Jersey	2.52	175%
2	1	3	New York	2.23	155%
3	9	14	Vermont	2.21	153%
4	2	1	California	2.16	150%
5	13	11	Hawaii	2.08	144%
6	8	5	Connecticut	1.99	138%
7	4	6	Delaware	1.97	137%
8	10	10	Louisiana	1.95	135%
9	7	9	Rhode Island	1.93	134%
10	5	5	Alaska	1.86	129%
11	12	12	Wisconsin	1.74	121%
12	11	11	Montana	1.69	117%
13	23	8	Oklahoma	1.66	115%
14	25	20	Missouri	1.65	115%
15	6	27	Georgia	1.64	114%
16	19	14	Maine	1.62	113%
17	28	22	Minnesota	1.61	112%
19	21	28	Idaho	1.56	108%
19	14	14	South Carolina	1.56	108%
20	17	26	Pennsylvania	1.55	108%
21	30	24	Iowa	1.54	107%
22	16	15	Washington	1.53	106%
23	24	32	South Dakota	1.48	103%
24	22	8	Illinois	1.46	101%
26	16	23	Wyoming	1.44	100%
26	27	32	Nebraska	1.44	100%
27	21	33	Florida	1.41	98%
28	27	17	New Hampshire	1.37	95%
29	34	20	New Mexico	1.34	93%
30	29	25	Alabama	1.33	92%
31	19	22	North Carolina	1.31	91%
32	41	47	Virginia	1.28	89%
33	35	35	Colorado	1.25	87%
34	31	29	Mississippi	1.20	83%
35	38	44	Massachusetts	1.17	81%
37	37	34	Michigan	1.14	79%
<b>37</b>	<b>39</b>	<b>38</b>	<b>Maryland</b>	<b>1.14</b>	<b>79%</b>
38	33	30	Kentucky	1.13	78%
39	46	41	Kansas	1.12	78%
40	36	40	Ohio	1.11	77%
41	32	30	Tennessee	1.09	76%
42	44	43	Nevada	1.07	74%
43	40	38	Arizona	1.05	73%
44	42	42	District of Columbia	1.04	72%
45	46	45	Oregon	1.00	69%
46	43	40	Texas	0.98	68%
47	47	46	Utah	0.85	59%
48	48	48	West Virginia	0.79	55%
49	50	50	Indiana	0.77	53%
50	49	49	Arkansas	0.72	50%
51	51	51	North Dakota	0.67	47%

Source: Research and Analysis Section, Oregon Department of Consumer and Business Services (Rev. 10/2020)

Notes: 1. Starting with the 2008 study, when two or more states' Index Rate are the same, they now are assigned the same ranking.

**FIGURE 17 • Licensed Insurers Writing Workers' Compensation Insurance**

Fiscal Year	Licensed Insurers <sup>(1)</sup>	Licensed Insurers Billed	Percentage of Licensed WC Insurers
<b>2022</b>	667	345	51.7%
<b>2021</b>	667	342	51.3%
<b>2020</b>	659	342	51.9%

Source: Commission Data, July 2022

<sup>(1)</sup> Includes Self-Insurers

**FIGURE 18 • Insurer Assessments, Safety/Fraud Costs and Commission Expenses**

Fiscal Year	Assessment Base Insured Payroll	Total Insurer Assessments	Safety and Fraud Program Cost	WCC Cost	Assessment per \$1000 of Payroll
<b>2022</b>	\$145,764,851,349	\$33,219,955	\$13,874,719	\$18,632,535	0.227
<b>2021</b>	\$153,560,170,498	\$31,012,070	\$13,029,421	\$18,244,138	0.201
<b>2020</b>	\$130,534,710,479	\$31,015,543	\$12,693,830	\$18,321,713	0.239

Source: Commission Data, July 2022

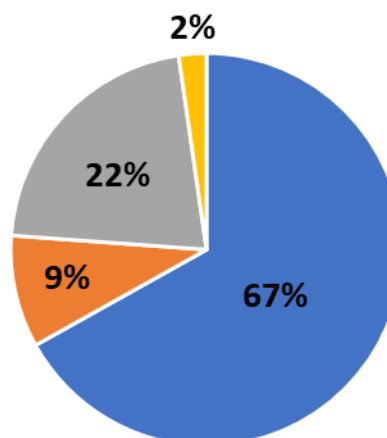
## REVENUES/EXPENDITURES

The Commission collects an assessment from licensed workers' compensation insurers and self-insurers for the operating budget of the Commission as well as the Occupational Safety and Health Program and the Workplace Fraud Act within the Department of Labor (DOL). During this fiscal year, \$33,219,955 was assessed and collected with \$13,874,719 being transferred to DOL for its safety program and workplace fraud initiative. The remaining funds were retained in the Workers' Compensation Fund and were disbursed as Commission operating expenditures as appropriated. The fiscal year 2022 Legislative Appropriation for the Commission's operating expenditures totaled \$18,829,687. Approximately 67 percent of this budget

provided for the Commission's allotment of 115.0 full-time equivalent permanent position salaries and 11.25 full-time equivalent contractual position salaries, 22 percent for contractual services to include computer software and hardware maintenance contracts, postage, and communications, 9 percent for fixed costs to include lease agreements and lease escalations, insurance, and utilities, and 2 percent for travel expenses, supplies and equipment.

### WCC Expenditures

- **Salaries/Benefits**
- **Contractual Services**  
*lease agreements, insurance, utilities*
- **Fixed Costs**  
*computer maintenance, postage, and communications*
- **Supplies/Equipment**  
*travel expenses, supplies, and equipment*



## REGULATORY/LEGAL UPDATE

### Legislation

**HB0085/CH0199**

**SB0651/CH0200**

**Baltimore County—Workers' Compensation—  
Permanent Partial Disability—Detention and  
Correctional Officers**

These Acts provide for enhanced workers' compensation benefits for Baltimore County correctional officers and Baltimore County detention officers for compensable permanent partial disability benefits.

(Effective: 10/1/21)



### Regulatory Updates

In accordance with State Government Article, §§10-130—10-139, Annotated Code of Maryland, each State agency that adopts regulations must review those regulations every eight years, unless exempt under §10-132.1. The purpose of the review is to determine whether the regulations are necessary for the public interest, continue to be supported by statutory authority and judicial opinion, or are appropriate for amendment or repeal.

The following amendments became effective on October 18, 2021:

- (1) Regulations .01—.04, .08, and .09 under COMAR 14.09.01 General Administrative;
- (2) Regulations .01—.04, .06, and .07 and adopt new Regulation .08 under COMAR 14.09.02 Requirements for Filing and Amending Claims;
- (3) Regulations .02—.05, .07—.09, and .11—.14, repeal existing Regulation .15, and adopt new Regulations .15 and .16 under COMAR 14.09.03 Hearing Procedures;
- (4) Regulations .01—.03 under COMAR 14.09.04 Legal Representation and Fees;
- (5) Regulations .01, .03, and .07 under COMAR 14.09.05 Uninsured Employers' Fund Claims;
- (6) Regulation .04 under COMAR 14.09.06 Payment of Awards and Assessments and Termination of Benefits;
- (7) Regulations .02 and .07 under COMAR 14.09.07 Vocational Rehabilitation;
- (8) Regulations .02 and .04 under COMAR 14.09.09 Guide for Evaluation of Permanent Disability;
- (9) Regulation .02 under COMAR 14.09.10 Settlements and Lump Sum Payments;
- (10) Regulations .02—.04 under COMAR 14.09.11 Judicial Review Procedures;
- (11) Regulations .02, .03, and .07 and adopt new Regulation .08 under COMAR 14.09.12 Responsibilities of Insurers;
- (12) Regulations .01, .02, .08, and .12 under COMAR 14.09.13 Individual Employer Self-Insurer;
- (13) Regulations .01-1 and .03 under COMAR 14.09.14 Governmental Group Self-Insurance;
- (14) Regulation .01 under COMAR 14.09.15 Open Meetings;
- (15) Regulations .03, .07—.09, .13, and .15, repeal existing Regulation .11, and adopt new Regulations .11 and .17 under COMAR 14.09.16 Public Information Act Requests; and
- (16) Regulation .03 under COMAR 14.09.17 Emergency Powers of Chairman of the Commission.

## Appellate Opinions

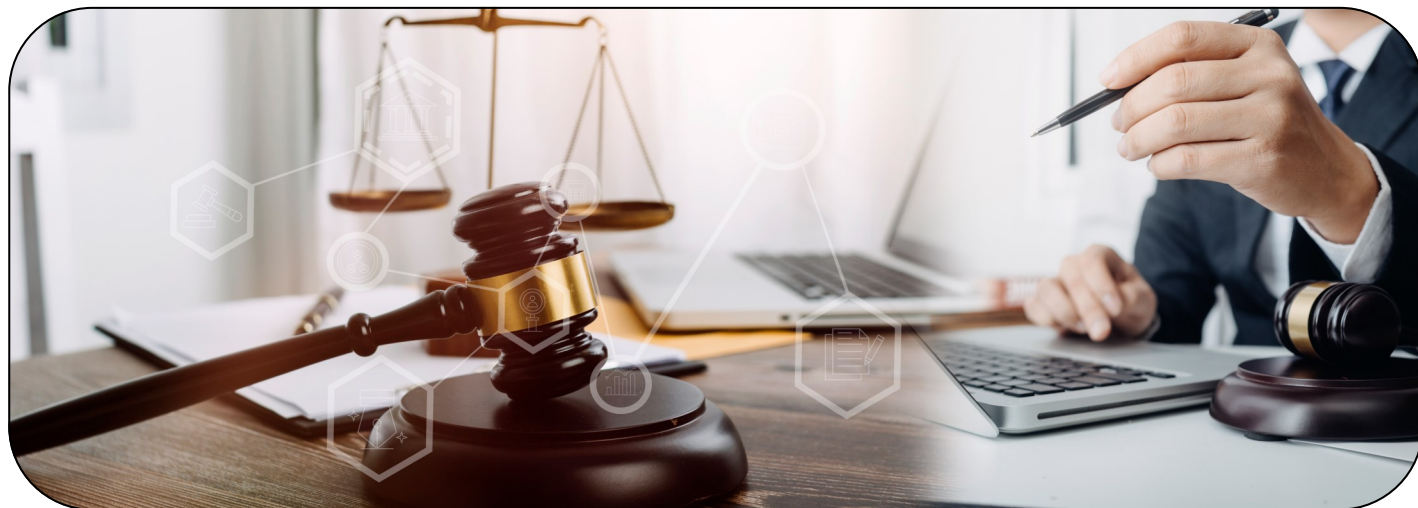
**Patrick Spevak v. Montgomery County, Maryland  
Court of Special Appeals  
No. 893, September Term, 2020  
Opinion by Beachley, J  
(July 28, 2021)**

**Workers' Compensation – Le § 9-610 Offset For  
“Similar Benefits” – Employee’s Service-Connected  
Total Disability Retirement Offsets Any Permanent  
Total Or Permanent Partial Workers’ Compensation  
Benefits**

HELD: When an employee who is subject to the provisions of LE § 9-610(a)(1) receives a service-connected total disability retirement from his or her employer, the LE § 9-610 offset applies to any permanent total or permanent partial workers’ compensation benefits the employee is awarded for injuries or diseases related to that same employment. Because Mr. Spevak’s service-connected total disability retirement compensates for any and all work-related injuries he sustained in his employment with Montgomery County, he may not also receive a permanent partial workers’ compensation award

**Patrick Spevak v. Montgomery County, Maryland  
Court of Appeals  
No. 44, September Term, 2021  
Opinion by Getty, C.J.  
(August 15, 2022)**

The Court of Appeals held that permanent partial disability benefits and service-connected total disability retirement benefits are “similar benefits” under Md. Code (1991, 2016 Repl. Vol., 2021 Supp.), Labor and Employment Article § 9-610, that are subject to the offset provision.



**COMMITTEES**

**Maryland General Assembly Workers' Compensation Benefit and Insurance Oversight Committee**

Chapters 590 and 591 of the Acts of 1987 established the Maryland General Assembly Workers' Compensation Benefit and Insurance Oversight Committee. Chapter 5 of the Acts of 2011 expanded the membership to include a representative from a self-insured local government entity. The Oversight Committee was developed to:

- Examine and evaluate the condition of the workers' compensation benefit and insurance structure in Maryland and the impact these laws have on that structure.
- Review, with respect to adequacy and appropriateness, the changes made to the permanent partial benefits laws and make recommendations for necessary changes.
- Report to the Governor and the Legislative Policy Committee on December 31 of each year.
- Monitor, review and comment on salient workers' compensation issues for the Maryland Legislature.

The Oversight Committee membership includes representatives from the legislative, medical, legal, labor, business, insurance, rehabilitation sectors, and self-insured local government, as well as the general public. The Committee is co-chaired by an appointed State Senator and a House of Delegates member.

**Governor's Advisory Committee on Budget of State Workers' Compensation Commission**

Pursuant to the requirements of Labor and Employment Article §§ 9-317 and 9-318, a Budget Advisory Committee was established to review the annual proposed operating budget of the Workers' Compensation Commission and make recommendations to the Commission. The Budget Advisory Committee will perform this review and make its recommendations by November 1 of each year. The Committee submits its annual report and recommendations to the Governor and Legislature by December 1 of each year. A meeting of the Committee was held virtually on October 6, 2021.

**2022 Committee Roster**

Katherine A. Klausmeier, Senate Chair  
 Kriselda Valderrama, House Chair  
 Senator Brian J. Feldman  
 One Vacancy

**Representative of Maryland Business Community:**  
 Mary Anne Reuschling

**Representative of the Maryland Labor Organization:**  
 Hank Sorenson

**Representative of Maryland Building and Construction Labor Organization:**  
 Thomas W. Hayes

**Two Members of the Public:**  
 Debora Fajer-Smith  
 Michael G. Comeau

**Member of the Insurance Industry:**  
 Thomas J. Phelan

**Member of a Workers' Compensation Rating Organization:**  
 David Benedict

**Member of Medical and Chirurgical Faculty of Maryland:**  
 Gary W. Pushkin M.D.

**Members of the Bar:**  
 Rudolph L. Rose, Defense Lawyer  
 P. Matthew Darby, Plaintiff Lawyer

**Maryland Certified Rehabilitation Service Provider:**  
 Jody Malcolm

**Self-Insured Local Government Entity**  
 Ronald J. Travers

**Workers' Compensation Commission—Ex Officio:**  
 Maureen Quinn

**Committee Staff:**

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**2022 Committee Roster**

Heather H. Kraus, Esq., Chair	Melinda L. Hayes, MS, CRC, CDMS
Nathan J. Cavey, Jr.	Mary C. Larkin
Michael G. Comeau, Esq.	Adrienne M. Ray
Carmine G. D'Alessandro, Esq.	Lisa Yvette Settles, Esq.
Sandra I. Dorsey	Matthew D. Trollinger, Esq.
Kevin P. Foy, Esq.	

**COMMITTEES**

**Advisory Committee on the Registration of Rehabilitation Practitioners**

The Advisory Committee on the Registration of Rehabilitation Practitioners was formed by the workers' compensation commission in 1997. The Committee's role is to review, evaluate and provide recommendations to the Commission regarding a vocational rehabilitation practitioner's application where questions or clarifications are needed. Members are appointed to a three-year term by the Workers' Compensation Commission. The Committee consists of seven members who are certified rehabilitation practitioners (Labor and Employment Article, Section 9-6A-05).

**2022 Committee Roster**

- Janet Spry, Ph.D., CRC, LPC, MCRSP  
*Committee Chair*
- Susan Budden, MS, CRC, MCRSP
- Mary Sevinsky, MS, CRC, CCM, MCRSP
- Kathy M. Stone, MS, CDMS, CCM, MCRSP
- Carole Stole-Upman, MA, RN, CCM, CRC, CDMS, CNLCP, WCCM, MCRSP
- Cathryn Winslow, RN, WCCM, MCRSP
- One Vacancy

**Medical Fee Guide Revision Committee**

The Medical Fee Guide Revision Committee (MFGRC) was established in response to Labor and Employment Article § 9-663(b)(3). It reviews medical and surgical fees for completeness and reasonableness as well as provides a forum for discussing the fee guide. Recommendations are then made to the full Commission. The MFGRC, whose membership consists of an equal number of payers and receivers of workers' compensation medical benefits, engages in an ongoing analysis of reimbursement rates and recommends modifications to the Commission. In 2008, the Medical Fee Guide was fully incorporated into COMAR and was updated to include an annual adjustment factor that will help reimbursement rates stay current.

**2022 Committee Roster**

- Commissioner Allan Kittleman, Committee Chair
- Jerome P. Reichmister, M.D., Physician Adviser, WCC
- Janet Vanderpuije, Committee Secretary, WCC

**Payers**

- Carmine D'Alessandro, Esq.
- Edward J. Bernacki, M.D.,
- Antonio R. Lopez, Esq.
- Rudolph Rose, Esq.
- Craig J. Ross, M.D.

**Receivers**

- Gregory M. Gilbert
- James Groschan, P.T.
- Derek Kram, M.D.
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