

SENATE BILL 177

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EMERGENCY BILL
(PRE-FILED)

2lr0008

By: **Chair, Finance Committee (By Request – Departmental – Uninsured Employers' Fund)**

Requested: October 21, 2021

Introduced and read first time: January 12, 2022

Assigned to: Finance

A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Uninsured Employers' Fund – Payments to Former Employees of Bethlehem**
3 **Steel Corporation**

4 FOR the purpose of altering the workers' compensation benefits that the Director of the
5 Uninsured Employers' Fund is required to pay to former employees of the Bethlehem
6 Steel Corporation; applying this Act retroactively; and generally relating to the
7 Uninsured Employers' Fund.

8 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,
9 Article – Labor and Employment
10 Section 10–314
11 Annotated Code of Maryland
12 (2016 Replacement Volume and 2021 Supplement)

13 SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF MARYLAND,
14 That the Laws of Maryland read as follows:

15 **Article – Labor and Employment**

16 10–314.

17 (a) The Fund shall consist of:

18 (1) the money credited to the Fund under Title 9 of this article;

19 (2) income from investments that the State Treasurer makes for the Fund;
20 and

21 (3) interest on deposits or investments of money from the Fund.

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



(b) Subject to subsection (d) of this section, the Director shall use the Fund to pay:

(1) each award under Title 9 of this article charged against the Fund;

(2) the amount that the Director authorizes for an expert or witness hired under § 10–310(c) of this subtitle;

(3) other proper charges that the Director authorizes;

(4) whenever an employer who is self-insured in accordance with § 9–404 or § 9–405 of this article becomes insolvent, any outstanding obligations of the employer; and

(5) [hearing loss claims for retirees of the Bethlehem Steel Corporation]
**CAUSALLY RELATED HEARING LOSS MEDICAL TREATMENT FOR FORMER
EMPLOYEES OF THE BETHLEHEM STEEL CORPORATION.**

(c) The liability of the Board, Director, Fund, State Treasurer, and State for all proper charges against the Fund is limited to the assets of the Fund.

(d) Beginning in fiscal year 2021, the Director may use the Fund to pay for the administration of the Fund only if an appropriation is included in the State budget for this purpose.

SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall be construed to apply retroactively and shall be applied to and interpreted to affect any workers' compensation claims filed before the effective date of this Act.

SECTION 3. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act is an emergency measure, is necessary for the immediate preservation of the public health or safety, has been passed by a ye and nay vote supported by three-fifths of all the members elected to each of the two Houses of the General Assembly, and shall take effect from the date it is enacted.