

1 AN ACT relating to workers compensation for volunteer firemen and other
2 emergency personnel.

3 ***Be it enacted by the General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Kentucky:***

4 ➔Section 1. KRS 342.140 is amended to read as follows:

5 The average weekly wage of the injured employee at the time of the injury or last
6 injurious exposure shall be determined as follows:

7 (1) If at the time of the injury which resulted in death or disability or the last date of
8 injurious exposure preceding death or disability from an occupational disease:

9 (a) The wages were fixed by the week, the amount so fixed shall be the average
10 weekly wage;

11 (b) The wages were fixed by the month, the average weekly wage shall be the
12 monthly wage so fixed multiplied by twelve (12) and divided by fifty-two
13 (52);

14 (c) The wages were fixed by the year, the average weekly wage shall be the yearly
15 wage so fixed divided by fifty-two (52);

16 (d) The wages were fixed by the day, hour, or by the output of the employee, the
17 average weekly wage shall be the wage most favorable to the employee
18 computed by dividing by thirteen (13) the wages (not including overtime or
19 premium pay) of said employee earned in the employ of the employer in the
20 first, second, third, or fourth period of thirteen (13) consecutive calendar
21 weeks in the fifty-two (52) weeks immediately preceding the injury;

22 (e) The employee had been in the employ of the employer less than thirteen (13)
23 calendar weeks immediately preceding the injury, his or her average weekly
24 wage shall be computed under paragraph (d), taking the wages (not including
25 overtime or premium pay) for that purpose to be the amount he or she would
26 have earned had he or she been so employed by the employer the full thirteen
27 (13) calendar weeks immediately preceding the injury and had worked, when

1 work was available to other employees in a similar occupation; and

2 (f) The hourly wage has not been fixed or cannot be ascertained, the wage for the
3 purpose of calculating compensation shall be taken to be the usual wage for
4 similar services where the services are rendered by paid employees.

5 (2) In occupations which are exclusively seasonal and therefore cannot be carried on
6 throughout the year, the average weekly wage shall be taken to be one-fiftieth (1/50)
7 of the total wages which the employee has earned from all occupations during the
8 twelve (12) calendar months immediately preceding the injury.

9 (3) In the case of volunteer firemen, police, and emergency management agency
10 members or trainees, the income benefits shall be based on the average weekly
11 wage in their regular employment, or fifty percent (50%) of the state average
12 weekly wage, whichever is greater.

13 (4) If the employee was a minor, apprentice, or trainee when injured, and it is
14 established that under normal conditions his or her wages should be expected to
15 increase during the period of disability, that fact may be considered in computing
16 his or her average weekly wage.

17 (5) When the employee is working under concurrent contracts with two (2) or more
18 employers and the defendant employer has knowledge of the employment prior to
19 the injury, his or her wages from all the employers shall be considered as if earned
20 from the employer liable for compensation.

21 (6) The term "wages" as used in this section and KRS 342.143 means, in addition to
22 money payments for services rendered, the reasonable value of board, rent, housing,
23 lodging, and fuel or similar advantage received from the employer, and gratuities
24 received in the course of employment from others than the employer to the extent
25 the gratuities are reported for income tax purposes.

26 (7) The commissioner shall, from time to time, based upon the best available
27 information, determine by administrative regulation industries which ordinarily do

1 not have a full working day for five (5) days in every week. In those industries,
2 compensation shall be computed at the average weekly wage earned by the
3 employee at the time of injury reckoning wages as earned while working full time.
4 "At full time" as used in this subsection means a full working day for five (5)
5 working days in every week regardless of whether the injured employee actually
6 worked all or part of the time.