

This bill specifies the method by which hearing loss may be calculated for workers' compensation purposes. The bill lowers the threshold hearing for a compensable injury by increasing the specified frequencies over which hearing loss is measured.

House Bill 827, which was passed by the General Assembly and signed by me on May 11, 2000, accomplishes the same purpose. Therefore, it is not necessary for me to sign Senate Bill 179.

Sincerely,
Parris N. Glendening
Governor

Senate Bill No. 179

AN ACT concerning

Workers' Compensation - Calculation of Hearing Loss

FOR the purpose of requiring the calculation of hearing loss for workers' compensation to be measured by certain criteria; requiring the measurements to be conducted in a sound room that meets certain criteria; increasing the threshold of hearing for certain frequencies; altering the levels of hearing loss for which certain employers must provide certain compensation; and generally relating to the calculation of hearing loss in workers' compensation.

BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,

Article - Labor and Employment

Section 9-505 and 9-650

Annotated Code of Maryland

(1999 Replacement Volume)

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

Article - Labor and Employment

9-505.

(a) Except as otherwise provided, an employer shall provide compensation in accordance with this title to a covered employee for loss of hearing by the covered employee due to industrial noise in the frequencies of 500, 1,000, [and] 2,000, AND 3,000 HERTZ [cycles per second].

(b) An employer is not liable for compensation for occupational deafness under subsection (a) of this section unless the covered employee claiming benefits worked for the employer in employment that exposed the covered employee to harmful noise for at least 90 days.