**90-351**

**WORKERS’ COMPENSATION BOARD**

**2013-2014 Regulatory Agenda**

October 9, 2013

AGENCY UMBRELLA-UNIT NUMBER: **90-351**

AGENCY NAME: **Workers' Compensation Board**

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**EMERGENCY RULES ADOPTED SINCE THE LAST REGULATORY AGENDA**: None

**EXPECTED 2013-2014 RULE-MAKING ACTIVITY:**

**CHAPTER 1**: Payment of Benefits

STATUTORY AUTHORITY: 39-A M.R.S. §152(2), §152(2-A)

PURPOSE: Update based on P.L. 2011 Ch. 647.

ANTICIPATED SCHEDULE: Fall 2013

AFFECTED PARTIES: Injured employees, employers, self-insured employers, insurance companies, third-party administrators, health care providers, attorneys

**CHAPTER 1**: Payment of Benefits

STATUTORY AUTHORITY: 39-A M.R.S. §152(2), §152(2-A)

PURPOSE: Update procedures regarding Board forms impacted by electronic filing of information.

ANTICIPATED SCHEDULE: Fall 2013

AFFECTED PARTIES: Injured employees, employers, self-insured employers, insurance companies, third-party administrators, health care providers, attorneys

**CHAPTER 1**: Payment of Benefits

STATUTORY AUTHORITY: 39-A M.R.S. §152(2), §152(2-A)

PURPOSE: Clarify coverage notification requirements.

ANTICIPATED SCHEDULE: Fall 2013

AFFECTED PARTIES: Injured employees, employers, self-insured employers, insurance companies, third-party administrators, health care providers, attorneys

**CHAPTER 1**: Payment of Benefits

STATUTORY AUTHORITY: 39-A M.R.S. §152(2), §152(2-A)

PURPOSE: Clarify notification requirements.

ANTICIPATED SCHEDULE: Winter 2013-14

AFFECTED PARTIES: Injured employees, employers, self-insured employers, insurance companies, third-party administrators, health care providers, attorneys

**CHAPTER 2**: Section 213 Compensation for Partial Incapacity

STATUTORY AUTHORITY: 39-A M.R.S. §152(2), §213(2)

PURPOSE: To address the permanent impairment threshold.

ANTICIPATED SCHEDULE: Fall 2013

AFFECTED PARTIES: Injured employees, employers, self-insured employers, insurance companies, third-party administrators, health care providers, attorneys

**CHAPTER 2**: Section 213 Compensation for Partial Incapacity

STATUTORY AUTHORITY: 39-A M.R.S. §152(2), §213(2)

PURPOSE: To clarify the procedures for collecting permanent impairment data.

ANTICIPATED SCHEDULE: Fall 2013

AFFECTED PARTIES: Injured employees, employers, self-insured employers, insurance companies, third-party administrators, health care providers, attorneys

**CHAPTER 2**: Section 213 Compensation for Partial Incapacity

STATUTORY AUTHORITY: 39-A M.R.S. §152(2), §213(1)

PURPOSE: To clarify the procedures regarding extensions of benefits due to extreme financial hardship.

ANTICIPATED SCHEDULE: Fall 2013

AFFECTED PARTIES: Injured employees, employers, self-insured employers, insurance companies, third-party administrators, health care providers, attorneys

**CHAPTER 3**: Form Filing

STATUTORY AUTHORITY: 39-A M.R.S. §152(2), §152(2-A), §303

PURPOSE: To require electronic filing of payment and related information.

ANTICIPATED SCHEDULE: Spring 2014

AFFECTED PARTIES: Injured employees, employers, self-insured employers, insurance companies, third-party administrators, health care providers, attorneys

**CHAPTER 3**: Form Filing

STATUTORY AUTHORITY: 39-A M.R.S. §152(2), §152(2-A), §303

PURPOSE: To amend procedures for electronic filing of coverage information.

ANTICIPATED SCHEDULE: Fall 2013

AFFECTED PARTIES: Injured employees, employers, self-insured employers, insurance companies, third-party administrators, health care providers, attorneys

**CHAPTER 3**: Form Filing

STATUTORY AUTHORITY: 39-A M.R.S. §152(2), §152(2-A), §303

PURPOSE: To clarify filing procedures/requirements.

ANTICIPATED SCHEDULE: Fall 2013

AFFECTED PARTIES: Injured employees, employers, self-insured employers, insurance companies, third-party administrators, health care providers, attorneys

**CHAPTER 4**: Independent Medical Examiner

STATUTORY AUTHORITY: 39-A M.R.S. §152(2), §312

PURPOSE: To clarify/update eligibility requirements.

ANTICIPATED SCHEDULE: Fall 2013

AFFECTED PARTIES: Injured employees, employers, self-insured employers, insurance companies, third-party administrators, health care providers, attorneys

**CHAPTER 4**: Independent Medical Examiner

STATUTORY AUTHORITY: 39-A M.R.S. §152(2), §312

PURPOSE: To clarify/update procedural issues.

ANTICIPATED SCHEDULE: Fall 2013

AFFECTED PARTIES: Injured employees, employers, self-insured employers, insurance companies, third-party administrators, health care providers, attorneys

**CHAPTER 4**: Independent Medical Examiner

STATUTORY AUTHORITY: 39-A M.R.S. §152(2), §312 PURPOSE: To update fees and expenses and procedures.

ANTICIPATED SCHEDULE: Fall 2013

AFFECTED PARTIES: Injured employees, employers, self-insured employers, insurance companies, third-party administrators, health care providers, attorneys

**CHAPTER 5**: Medical Fee Schedule

STATUTORY AUTHORITY: 39-A M.R.S. §152(2), §209

PURPOSE: To update the medical fee schedule.

ANTICIPATED SCHEDULE: Winter 2013

AFFECTED PARTIES: Injured employees, employers, self-insured employers, insurance companies, third-party administrators, health care providers, attorneys

**CHAPTER 5**: Medical Fee Schedule

STATUTORY AUTHORITY: 39-A M.R.S. §152(2), §209

PURPOSE: To update facility fee section.

ANTICIPATED SCHEDULE: Winter 2013

AFFECTED PARTIES: Injured employees, employers, self-insured employers, insurance companies, third-party administrators, health care providers, attorneys

**CHAPTER 5**: Medical Fee Schedule

STATUTORY AUTHORITY: 39-A M.R.S. §152(2), §209

PURPOSE: To clarify procedures.

ANTICIPATED SCHEDULE: Winter 2013-14

AFFECTED PARTIES: Injured employees, employers, self-insured employers, insurance companies, third-party administrators, health care providers, attorneys

**CHAPTER 6**: Rehabilitation

STATUTORY AUTHORITY: 39-A M.R.S. §152(2), §217

PURPOSE: To update/clarify procedures related to rehabilitation.

ANTICIPATED SCHEDULE: Spring 2014

AFFECTED PARTIES: Injured employees, employers, self-insured employers, insurance companies, third-party administrators, health care providers, attorneys

**CHAPTER 7**: Utilization Review, Treatment Protocols, Permanent Impairment

STATUTORY AUTHORITY: 39-A M.R.S. §152(2), §210

PURPOSE: Update utilization review procedures and guidelines.

ANTICIPATED SCHEDULE: Spring 2014

AFFECTED PARTIES: Injured employees, employers, self-insured employers, insurance companies, third-party administrators, health care providers, attorneys

**CHAPTER 7**: Utilization Review, Treatment Protocols, Permanent Impairment

STATUTORY AUTHORITY: 39-A M.R.S. §152(2), §153(8)

PURPOSE: Establish a schedule for determining permanent impairment.

ANTICIPATED SCHEDULE: Spring 2014

AFFECTED PARTIES: Injured employees, employers, self-insured employers, insurance companies, third-party administrators, health care providers, attorneys

**CHAPTER 8**: Procedures for Payment

STATUTORY AUTHORITY: 39-A M.R.S. §152(2), §152(2-A)

PURPOSE: Update to conform with electronic filing requirements.

ANTICIPATED SCHEDULE: Spring 2014

AFFECTED PARTIES: Injured employees, employers, self-insured employers, insurance companies, third-party administrators, health care providers, attorneys

**CHAPTER 8**: Procedures for Payment

STATUTORY AUTHORITY: 39-A M.R.S. §152(2), §152(2-A)

PURPOSE: Update to conform with P.L. 2011 Ch. 647.

ANTICIPATED SCHEDULE: Fall 2013

AFFECTED PARTIES: Injured employees, employers, self-insured employers, insurance companies, third-party administrators, health care providers, attorneys

**CHAPTER 9**: Procedure for Coordination of Benefits

STATUTORY AUTHORITY: 39-A M.R.S. §152(2), §152(2-A)

PURPOSE: Update to conform with electronic filing requirements.

ANTICIPATED SCHEDULE: Fall 2013

AFFECTED PARTIES: Injured employees, employers, self-insured employers, insurance companies, third-party administrators, health care providers, attorneys

**CHAPTER 9**: Procedure for Coordination of Benefits

STATUTORY AUTHORITY: 39-A M.R.S. §152(2), §152(2-A)

PURPOSE: Update to conform with P.L. 2011 Ch. 647.

ANTICIPATED SCHEDULE: Winter 2013-14

AFFECTED PARTIES: Injured employees, employers, self-insured employers, insurance companies, third-party administrators, health care providers, attorneys

**CHAPTER 9**: Procedure for Coordination of Benefits

STATUTORY AUTHORITY: 39-A M.R.S. §152(2), §152(2-A); §221(4)

PURPOSE: Establish rules regarding notification and release of social security benefit information.

ANTICIPATED SCHEDULE: Winter 2013-14

AFFECTED PARTIES: Injured employees, employers, self-insured employers, insurance companies, third-party administrators, health care providers, attorneys

**CHAPTER 12**: Formal Hearings

STATUTORY AUTHORITY: 39-A M.R.S. §152(2); §315

PURPOSE: Update expenses.

ANTICIPATED SCHEDULE: Fall 2013

AFFECTED PARTIES: Injured employees, employers, self-insured employers, insurance companies, third-party administrators, health care providers, attorneys

**CHAPTER 12**: Formal Hearings

STATUTORY AUTHORITY: 39-A M.R.S. §152(2)

PURPOSE: Clarify procedures.

ANTICIPATED SCHEDULE: Fall 2013

AFFECTED PARTIES: Injured employees, employers, self-insured employers, insurance companies, third-party administrators, health care providers, attorneys

**CHAPTER 13**: Appellate Division

STATUTORY AUTHORITY: 39-A M.R.S. §152(2)

PURPOSE: Amend procedures for Appellate Division.

ANTICIPATED SCHEDULE: Fall 2013

AFFECTED PARTIES: Injured employees, employers, self-insured employers, insurance companies, third-party administrators, health care providers, attorneys

**CHAPTER 14**: Review by Full Board

STATUTORY AUTHORITY: 39-A M.R.S. §152(2), §320

PURPOSE: Update procedure for Board review of hearing officer decisions.

ANTICIPATED SCHEDULE: Fall 2013 A

FFECTED PARTIES: Injured employees, employers, self-insured employers, insurance companies, third-party administrators, health care providers, attorneys

**CHAPTER 15**: Penalties

STATUTORY AUTHORITY: 39-A M.R.S. §152(2)

PURPOSE: Update process/procedure regarding penalties.

ANTICIPATED SCHEDULE: Spring 2014

AFFECTED PARTIES: Injured employees, employers, self-insured employers, insurance companies, third-party administrators, health care providers, attorneys

**CHAPTER 17**: Procedures For Coordination of Benefits

STATUTORY AUTHORITY: 39 M.R.S. §62-B

PURPOSE: Repeal outdated Commission rule.

ANTICIPATED SCHEDULE: Fall 2013

AFFECTED PARTIES: Injured employees, employers, self-insured employers, insurance companies, third-party administrators, health care providers, attorneys

**CHAPTER 18**: Examinations by Impartial Physicians Pursuant to 39-A M.R.S.A. §611

STATUTORY AUTHORITY: 39-A M.R.S. §152(2), §611

PURPOSE: Update expenses and fees.

ANTICIPATED SCHEDULE: Fall 2013

AFFECTED PARTIES: Injured employees, employers, self-insured employers, insurance companies, third-party administrators, health care providers, attorneys

**CHAPTER 19**: Worker Advocates

STATUTORY AUTHORITY: 39-A M.R.S. §152(2), §153-A(7)

PURPOSE: Worker Advocate case management authority.

ANTICIPATED SCHEDULE: Fall 2013

AFFECTED PARTIES: Injured employees, employers, self-insured employers, insurance companies, third-party administrators, health care providers, attorneys

**CHAPTER 23**: Maximum Medical Improvement

STATUTORY AUTHORITY: Title 39 M.R.S. §1, *et seq*.

PURPOSE: Repeal outdated Commission rule.

ANTICIPATED SCHEDULE: Fall 2013

AFFECTED PARTIES: Injured employees, employers, self-insured employers, insurance companies, third-party administrators, health care providers, attorneys

**CHAPTER ?**: Expenses

STATUTORY AUTHORITY: 39-A M.R.S. §152(2)

PURPOSE: Consolidate mileage and expense reimbursement.

ANTICIPATED SCHEDULE: Fall 2013

AFFECTED PARTIES: Injured employees, employers, self-insured employers, insurance companies, third-party administrators, health care providers, attorneys

**CHAPTER ?**: Predeterminations

STATUTORY AUTHORITY: 39-A M.R.S. §152(2), §153-A(7)

PURPOSE: Establish procedures regarding independent contractors.

ANTICIPATED SCHEDULE: Winter 2014

AFFECTED PARTIES: Injured employees, employers, self-insured employers, insurance companies, third-party administrators, health care providers, attorneys