



Testimony of Chesapeake Employers’ Insurance Company
and Injured Workers’ Insurance Fund in Opposition to House Bill 694

House Bill 694 proposes to authorize a licensed certified social worker–clinical to register as a rehabilitation practitioner, and to authorize a licensed certified social worker–clinical to provide evaluation services for workers’ compensation claims related to permanent impairments involving a behavioral or mental disorder under Labor and Employment, § 9-721.

Currently, under Labor and Employment, § 9-721, only a physician or psychologist provides permanent impairment ratings for purposes of workers’ compensation evaluations (COMAR 19.09.09.03 extends psychiatric impairment evaluations to psychiatrists as well). Given the long-standing practice of only physicians, psychologists, or psychiatrists providing ratings, Chesapeake Employers’ Insurance Company and the Injured Workers’ Insurance Fund are concerned about the departure to non-physicians, psychologists or psychiatrists providing ratings and evaluations since the evaluations must conform to standards set forth by the American Medical Association’s “Guide to the Evaluations of Permanent Impairment”, and therefore have been routinely completed by the above-mentioned physicians.

Given the departure from well settled law and practice, Chesapeake Employers’ and Injured Workers’ Insurance Fund respectfully oppose House Bill 694.

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