

FIRST REGULAR SESSION

# HOUSE BILL NO. 710

## 92ND GENERAL ASSEMBLY

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INTRODUCED BY REPRESENTATIVES BRUNS AND WILDBERGER (Co-sponsors).

Read 1<sup>st</sup> time March 31, 2003, and copies ordered printed.

STEPHEN S. DAVIS, Chief Clerk

2161L.011

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### AN ACT

To repeal section 287.067, RSMo, and to enact in lieu thereof one new section relating to workers' compensation.

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*Be it enacted by the General Assembly of the state of Missouri, as follows:*

Section A. Section 287.067, RSMo, is repealed and one new section enacted in lieu thereof, to be known as section 287.067, to read as follows:

287.067. 1. In this chapter the term "occupational disease" is hereby defined to mean, unless a different meaning is clearly indicated by the context, an identifiable disease arising with or without human fault out of and in the course of the employment. Ordinary diseases of life to which the general public is exposed outside of the employment shall not be compensable, except where the diseases follow as an incident of an occupational disease as defined in this section. The disease need not to have been foreseen or expected but after its contraction it must appear to have had its origin in a risk connected with the employment and to have flowed from that source as a rational consequence.

2. An occupational disease is compensable if it is clearly work related and meets the requirements of an injury which is compensable as provided in subsections 2 and 3 of section 287.020. An occupational disease is not compensable merely because work was a triggering or precipitating factor.

3. "Loss of hearing due to industrial noise" is recognized as an occupational disease for purposes of this chapter and is hereby defined to be a loss of hearing in one or both ears due to prolonged exposure to harmful noise in employment. "Harmful noise" means sound capable of producing occupational deafness.

4. "Radiation disability" is recognized as an occupational disease for purposes of this chapter and is hereby defined to be that disability due to radioactive properties or substances or

19 to Roentgen rays (X rays) or exposure to ionizing radiation caused by any process involving the  
20 use of or direct contact with radium or radioactive properties or substances or the use of or direct  
21 exposure to Roentgen rays (X rays) or ionizing radiation.

22 5. Disease of the lungs or respiratory tract, hypotension, hypertension, or disease of the  
23 heart or cardiovascular system, including carcinoma, may be recognized as occupational diseases  
24 for the purposes of this chapter and are defined to be disability due to exposure to smoke, gases,  
25 carcinogens, inadequate oxygen, or psychological stress of firefighters of a paid fire department  
26 if a direct causal relationship is established.

27 6. Any employee who is exposed to and contracts any contagious or communicable  
28 disease arising out of and in the course of his or her employment shall be eligible for benefits  
29 under this chapter as an occupational disease **however, any firefighter or emergency medical**  
30 **personnel of a paid fire department, fire district, or ambulance district is presumed to have**  
31 **contracted a contagious disease if proper documentation can be furnished to the division**  
32 **showing that an exposure existed while in the performance of his or her duties.**

33 7. With regard to occupational disease due to repetitive motion, if the exposure to the  
34 repetitive motion which is found to be the cause of the injury is for a period of less than three  
35 months and the evidence demonstrates that the exposure to the repetitive motion with a prior  
36 employer was the substantial contributing factor to the injury, the prior employer shall be liable  
37 for such occupational disease.