

SENATE BILL No. 167

By Committee on Commerce

2-6

1 AN ACT concerning workers compensation; amending K.S.A. 2014 Supp.
2 44-510d and 44-510e and repealing the existing sections.

3
4 *Be it enacted by the Legislature of the State of Kansas:*

5 Section 1. K.S.A. 2014 Supp. 44-510d is hereby amended to read as
6 follows: 44-510d.(a) Where disability, partial in character but permanent in
7 quality, results from the injury, the injured employee shall be entitled to
8 the compensation provided in K.S.A. 44-510h and 44-510i, and
9 amendments thereto. The injured employee may be entitled to payment of
10 temporary total disability as defined in K.S.A. 44-510c, and amendments
11 thereto, or temporary partial disability as defined in ~~subsection (a)(1) of~~
12 K.S.A. 44-510e(a)(1), and amendments thereto, provided that the injured
13 employee shall not be entitled to any other or further compensation for or
14 during the first week following the injury unless such disability exists for
15 three consecutive weeks, in which event compensation shall be paid for
16 the first week. Thereafter compensation shall be paid for temporary total
17 or temporary partial disability as provided in the following schedule,
18 66²/₃% of the average weekly wages to be computed as provided in K.S.A.
19 44-511, and amendments thereto, except that in no case shall the weekly
20 compensation be more than the maximum as provided for in K.S.A. 44-
21 510c, and amendments thereto.

22 (b) If there is an award of permanent disability as a result of the
23 injury there shall be a presumption that disability existed immediately after
24 the injury and compensation is to be paid for not to exceed the number of
25 weeks allowed in the following schedule:

26 (1) For loss of a thumb, 60 weeks.

27 (2) For the loss of a first finger, commonly called the index finger, 37
28 weeks.

29 (3) For the loss of a second finger, 30 weeks.

30 (4) For the loss of a third finger, 20 weeks.

31 (5) For the loss of a fourth finger, commonly called the little finger,
32 15 weeks.

33 (6) Loss of the first phalange of the thumb or of any finger shall be
34 considered to be equal to the loss of ¹/₂ of such thumb or finger, and the
35 compensation shall be ¹/₂ of the amount specified above. The loss of the
36 first phalange and any part of the second phalange of any finger, which

- 1 includes the loss of any part of the bone of such second phalange, shall be
2 considered to be equal to the loss of $\frac{2}{3}$ of such finger and the
3 compensation shall be $\frac{2}{3}$ of the amount specified above. The loss of the
4 first phalange and any part of the second phalange of a thumb which
5 includes the loss of any part of the bone of such second phalange, shall be
6 considered to be equal to the loss of the entire thumb. The loss of the first
7 and second phalanges and any part of the third proximal phalange of any
8 finger, shall be considered as the loss of the entire finger. Amputation
9 through the joint shall be considered a loss to the next higher schedule.
- 10 (7) For the loss of a great toe, 30 weeks.
- 11 (8) For the loss of any toe other than the great toe, 10 weeks.
- 12 (9) The loss of the first phalange of any toe shall be considered to be
13 equal to the loss of $\frac{1}{2}$ of such toe and the compensation shall be $\frac{1}{2}$ of the
14 amount above specified.
- 15 (10) The loss of more than one phalange of a toe shall be considered
16 to be equal to the loss of the entire toe.
- 17 (11) For the loss of a hand, 150 weeks.
- 18 (12) For the loss of a forearm, 200 weeks.
- 19 (13) For the loss of an arm, excluding the shoulder joint, shoulder
20 girdle, shoulder musculature or any other shoulder structures, 210 weeks,
21 and for the loss of an arm, including the shoulder joint, shoulder girdle,
22 shoulder musculature or any other shoulder structures, 225 weeks.
- 23 (14) For the loss of a foot, 125 weeks.
- 24 (15) For the loss of a lower leg, 190 weeks.
- 25 (16) For the loss of a leg, 200 weeks.
- 26 (17) For the loss of an eye, or the complete loss of the sight thereof,
27 120 weeks.
- 28 (18) Amputation or severance below the wrist shall be considered as
29 the loss of a hand. Amputation at the wrist and below the elbow shall be
30 considered as the loss of the forearm. Amputation at or above the elbow
31 shall be considered loss of the arm. Amputation below the ankle shall be
32 considered loss of the foot. Amputation at the ankle and below the knee
33 shall be considered as loss of the lower leg. Amputation at or above the
34 knee shall be considered as loss of the leg.
- 35 (19) For the complete loss of hearing of both ears, 110 weeks.
- 36 (20) For the complete loss of hearing of one ear, 30 weeks.
- 37 (21) Permanent loss of the use of a finger, thumb, hand, shoulder,
38 arm, forearm, toe, foot, leg or lower leg or the permanent loss of the sight
39 of an eye or the hearing of an ear, shall be equivalent to the loss thereof.
40 For the permanent partial loss of the use of a finger, thumb, hand,
41 shoulder, arm, toe, foot or leg, or the sight of an eye or the hearing of an
42 ear, compensation shall be paid as provided for in K.S.A. 44-510c, and
43 amendments thereto, per week during that proportion of the number of

1 weeks in the foregoing schedule provided for the loss of such finger,
2 thumb, hand, shoulder, arm, toe, foot or leg or the sight of an eye or the
3 hearing of an ear, which partial loss thereof bears to the total loss of a
4 finger, thumb, hand, shoulder, arm, toe, foot or leg, or the sight of an eye
5 or the hearing of an ear; but in no event shall the compensation payable
6 hereunder for such partial loss exceed the compensation payable under the
7 schedule for the total loss of such finger, thumb, hand, arm, toe, foot or
8 leg, or the sight of an eye or the hearing of an ear, exclusive of the healing
9 period. As used in this paragraph (21), "shoulder" means the shoulder
10 joint, shoulder girdle, shoulder musculature or any other shoulder
11 structures.

12 (22) For traumatic hernia, compensation shall be limited to the
13 compensation under K.S.A. 44-510h and 44-510i, and amendments
14 thereto, compensation for temporary total disability during such period of
15 time as such employee is actually unable to work on account of such
16 hernia, and, in the event such hernia is inoperable, weekly compensation
17 during 12 weeks, except that, in the event that such hernia is operable, the
18 unreasonable refusal of the employee to submit to an operation for surgical
19 repair of such hernia shall deprive such employee of any benefits under the
20 workers compensation act.

21 (23) Loss of or loss of use of a scheduled member shall be based
22 upon permanent impairment of function to the scheduled member as
23 determined using the fourth edition of the American medical association
24 guides to the evaluation of permanent impairment, if the impairment is
25 contained therein, ~~until January 1, 2015, but for injuries occurring on and~~
26 ~~after January 1, 2015, shall be determined by using the sixth edition of the~~
27 ~~American medical association guides to the evaluation of permanent~~
28 ~~impairment, if the impairment is contained therein.~~

29 (24) Where an injury results in the loss of or loss of use of more than
30 one scheduled member within a single extremity, the functional
31 impairment attributable to each scheduled member shall be combined
32 pursuant to the fourth edition of the American medical association guides
33 for evaluation of permanent impairment ~~until January 1, 2015, but for~~
34 ~~injuries occurring on and after January 1, 2015, shall be combined~~
35 ~~pursuant to the sixth edition of the American medical association guides to~~
36 ~~the evaluation of permanent impairment, and compensation awarded shall~~
37 ~~be calculated to the highest scheduled member actually impaired.~~

38 (c) Whenever the employee is entitled to compensation for a specific
39 injury under the foregoing schedule, the same shall be exclusive of all
40 other compensation except the benefits provided in K.S.A. 44-510h and
41 44-510i, and amendments thereto, and no additional compensation shall be
42 allowable or payable for any temporary or permanent, partial or total
43 disability, except that the director, in proper cases, may allow additional

1 compensation during the actual healing period, following amputation. The
2 healing period shall not be more than 10% of the total period allowed for
3 the scheduled injury in question nor in any event for longer than 15 weeks.
4 The return of the employee to the employee's usual occupation shall
5 terminate the healing period.

6 (d) The amount of compensation for permanent partial disability
7 under this section shall be determined by multiplying the payment rate by
8 the weeks payable. As used in this section:

9 (1) Payment rate shall be the lesser of: (A) The amount determined by
10 multiplying the average weekly wage of the worker prior to such injury by
11 $66\frac{2}{3}\%$; or (B) the maximum provided in K.S.A. 44-510c, and amendments
12 thereto;

13 (2) weeks payable shall be determined as follows: (A) Determine the
14 weeks of benefits provided for the injury on schedule; (B) determine the
15 weeks of temporary compensation paid by adding the amounts of
16 temporary total and temporary partial disability compensation paid and
17 dividing the sum by the payment rate above; (C) subtract the weeks of
18 temporary compensation calculated in (d)(2)(B) from the weeks of benefits
19 provided for the injury as determined in (d)(2)(A); and (D) multiply the
20 weeks as determined in (d)(2)(C) by the percentage of permanent partial
21 impairment of function as determined under subsection (b)(23).

22 The resulting award shall be paid for the number of weeks at the
23 payment rate until fully paid or modified. Under no circumstances shall
24 the period of permanent partial disability run concurrently with the period
25 of temporary total or temporary partial disability.

26 Sec. 2. K.S.A. 2014 Supp. 44-510e is hereby amended to read as
27 follows: 44-510e. (a) In case of whole body injury resulting in temporary
28 or permanent partial general disability not covered by the schedule in
29 K.S.A. 44-510d, and amendments thereto, the employee shall receive
30 weekly compensation as determined in this subsection during the period of
31 temporary or permanent partial general disability not exceeding a
32 maximum of 415 weeks.

33 (1) Weekly compensation for temporary partial general disability
34 shall be $66\frac{2}{3}\%$ of the difference between the average weekly wage that the
35 employee was earning prior to the date of injury and the amount the
36 employee is actually earning after such injury in any type of employment.
37 In no case shall such weekly compensation exceed the maximum as
38 provided for in K.S.A. 44-510c, and amendments thereto.

39 (2) (A) Permanent partial general disability exists when the employee
40 is disabled in a manner which is partial in character and permanent in
41 quality and which is not covered by the schedule in K.S.A. 44-510d, and
42 amendments thereto. Compensation for permanent partial general
43 disability shall also be paid as provided in this section where an injury

1 results in:

2 (i) The loss of or loss of use of a shoulder, arm, forearm or hand of
3 one upper extremity, combined with the loss of or loss of use of a shoulder,
4 arm, forearm or hand of the other upper extremity;

5 (ii) the loss of or loss of use of a leg, lower leg or foot of one lower
6 extremity, combined with the loss of or loss of use of a leg, lower leg or
7 foot of the other lower extremity; or

8 (iii) the loss of or loss of use of both eyes.

9 (B) The extent of permanent partial general disability shall be the
10 percentage of functional impairment the employee sustained on account of
11 the injury as established by competent medical evidence and based on the
12 fourth edition of the American medical association guides to the evaluation
13 of permanent impairment, if the impairment is contained therein, ~~until~~
14 ~~January 1, 2015, but for injuries occurring on and after January 1, 2015,~~
15 ~~based on the sixth edition of the American medical association guides to~~
16 ~~the evaluation of permanent impairment, if the impairment is contained~~
17 ~~therein.~~

18 (C) An employee may be eligible to receive permanent partial general
19 disability compensation in excess of the percentage of functional
20 impairment ("work disability") if:

21 (i) The percentage of functional impairment determined to be caused
22 solely by the injury ~~exceeds 7½% equals or exceeds 10%~~ to the body as a
23 whole or the overall functional impairment is equal to or exceeds ~~10%~~
24 ~~12½%~~ to the body as a whole in cases where there is preexisting
25 functional impairment; and

26 (ii) the employee sustained a post-injury wage loss, as defined in
27 ~~subsection (a)(2)(E) of K.S.A. 44-510e(a)(2)(E), and amendments thereto,~~
28 of at least 10% which is directly attributable to the work injury and not to
29 other causes or factors.

30 In such cases, the extent of work disability is determined by averaging
31 together the percentage of post-injury task loss demonstrated by the
32 employee to be caused by the injury and the percentage of post-injury
33 wage loss demonstrated by the employee to be caused by the injury.

34 (D) "Task loss" shall mean the percentage to which the employee, in
35 the opinion of a licensed physician, has lost the ability to perform the work
36 tasks that the employee performed in any substantial gainful employment
37 during the five-year period preceding the injury. The permanent
38 restrictions imposed by a licensed physician as a result of the work injury
39 shall be used to determine those work tasks which the employee has lost
40 the ability to perform. If the employee has preexisting permanent
41 restrictions, any work tasks which the employee would have been deemed
42 to have lost the ability to perform, had a task loss analysis been completed
43 prior to the injury at issue, shall be excluded for the purposes of

1 calculating the task loss which is directly attributable to the current injury.

2 (E) "Wage loss" shall mean the difference between the average
3 weekly wage the employee was earning at the time of the injury and the
4 average weekly wage the employee is capable of earning after the injury.
5 The capability of a worker to earn post-injury wages shall be established
6 based upon a consideration of all factors, including, but not limited to, the
7 injured worker's age, physical capabilities, education and training, prior
8 experience, and availability of jobs in the open labor market. The
9 administrative law judge shall impute an appropriate post-injury average
10 weekly wage based on such factors. Where the employee is engaged in
11 post-injury employment for wages, there shall be a rebuttable presumption
12 that the average weekly wage an injured worker is actually earning
13 constitutes the post-injury average weekly wage that the employee is
14 capable of earning. The presumption may be overcome by competent
15 evidence.

16 (i) To establish post-injury wage loss, the employee must have the
17 legal capacity to enter into a valid contract of employment. Wage loss
18 caused by voluntary resignation or termination for cause shall in no way
19 be construed to be caused by the injury.

20 (ii) The actual or projected weekly value of any employer-paid fringe
21 benefits are to be included as part of the worker's post-injury average
22 weekly wage and shall be added to the wage imputed by the administrative
23 law judge pursuant to K.S.A. 44-510e(a)(2)(E), and amendments thereto.

24 (iii) The injured worker's refusal of accommodated employment
25 within the worker's medical restrictions as established by the authorized
26 treating physician and at a wage equal to 90% or more of the pre-injury
27 average weekly wage shall result in a rebuttable presumption of no wage
28 loss.

29 (F) The amount of compensation for whole body injury under this
30 section shall be determined by multiplying the payment rate by the weeks
31 payable. As used in this section: (1) The payment rate shall be the lesser
32 of: (A) The amount determined by multiplying the average weekly wage
33 of the worker prior to such injury by $66\frac{2}{3}\%$; or (B) the maximum provided
34 in K.S.A. 44-510c, and amendments thereto; (2) weeks payable shall be
35 determined as follows: (A) Determine the weeks of temporary
36 compensation paid by adding the amounts of temporary total and
37 temporary partial disability compensation paid and dividing the sum by the
38 payment rate above; (B) subtract from 415 weeks the total number of
39 weeks of temporary compensation paid as determined in (F)(2)(A),
40 excluding the first 15 such weeks; and (3) multiply the number of weeks as
41 determined in (F)(2)(B) by the percentage of functional impairment
42 pursuant to subsection (a)(2)(B) or the percentage of work disability
43 pursuant to subsection (a)(2)(C), whichever is applicable.

1 (3) When an injured worker is eligible to receive an award of work
2 disability, compensation is limited to the value of the work disability as
3 calculated above. In no case shall functional impairment and work
4 disability be awarded together.

5 The resulting award shall be paid for the number of disability weeks at
6 the payment rate until fully paid or modified. In any case of permanent
7 partial disability under this section, the employee shall be paid
8 compensation for not to exceed 415 weeks following the date of such
9 injury. If there is an award of permanent disability as a result of the
10 compensable injury, there shall be a presumption that disability existed
11 immediately after such injury. Under no circumstances shall the period of
12 permanent partial disability run concurrently with the period of temporary
13 total or temporary partial disability.

14 (b) If an employee has sustained an injury for which compensation is
15 being paid, and the employee's death is caused by other and independent
16 causes, any payment of compensation already due the employee at the
17 time of death and then unpaid shall be paid to the employee's dependents
18 directly or to the employee's legal representatives if the employee left no
19 dependent, but the liability of the employer for the payments of
20 compensation not yet due at the time of the death of such employee shall
21 cease and be abrogated by the employee's death.

22 (c) The total amount of compensation that may be allowed or
23 awarded an injured employee for all injuries received in any one accident
24 shall in no event exceed the compensation which would be payable under
25 the workers compensation act for 100% permanent total disability
26 resulting from such accident.

27 (d) Where a minor employee or a minor employee's dependents are
28 entitled to compensation under the workers compensation act, such
29 compensation shall be exclusive of all other remedies or causes of action
30 for such injury or death, and no claim or cause of action against the
31 employer shall inure or accrue to or exist in favor of the parent or parents
32 of such minor employee on account of any damage resulting to such parent
33 or parents on account of the loss of earnings or loss of service of such
34 minor employee.

35 (e) In any case of injury to or death of an employee, where the
36 employee or the employee's dependents are entitled to compensation under
37 the workers compensation act, such compensation shall be exclusive of all
38 other remedies or causes of action for such injury or death, and no claim or
39 action shall inure, accrue to or exist in favor of the surviving spouse or any
40 relative or next of kin of such employee against such employer on account
41 of any damage resulting to such surviving spouse or any relative or next of
42 kin on account of the loss of earnings, services, or society of such
43 employee or on any other account resulting from or growing out of the

1 injury or death of such employee.

2 New Sec. 3. If any clause, paragraph, subsection or section of this act
3 is held invalid or unconstitutional, it shall be conclusively presumed that
4 the legislature would have enacted the remainder of this act without such
5 invalid or unconstitutional clause, paragraph, subsection or section.

6 Sec. 4. K.S.A. 2014 Supp. 44-510d and 44-510e are hereby repealed.

7 Sec. 5. This act shall take effect and be in force from and after its
8 publication in the Kansas register.