

● WORKERS' COMPENSATION LAW

STATUTORY CITATION: N.H. Rev. Stat. §§ 281-A:1 – 281-A:70

GENERAL SUMMARY: The Workers' Compensation Law generally requires employers in New Hampshire who have one or more employees to provide compensation for accidental personal injury, occupational disease or death of any employee which arises out of and in the course of employment. Among the benefits to which covered workers and their dependents are entitled in the event of a compensable injury, illness or death are (1) weekly cash payments in lieu of lost wages, and (2) payment of medical, hospital and remedial care related to the injury.

Subject employers generally must secure compensation by (1) purchasing a prescribed workers' compensation insurance policy from a commercial carrier, or (2) furnishing satisfactory proof to the state administering agency of financial ability to pay the required compensation directly. An employer who fails to comply with the obligation to secure compensation is subject to civil money penalties and suspension of the right to do business in the state.

PROVISIONS APPLICABLE TO AGRICULTURE: The Workers' Compensation Law applies to agricultural employers with one or more employees, protecting agricultural workers to the same extent as workers in covered non-agricultural sectors.

ADMINISTRATION AND ENFORCEMENT

PRIMARY ENFORCEMENT AGENCY — *Workers' Compensation Division, New Hampshire Department of Labor, Concord, New Hampshire 03301 (603-271-3176).* The Department is responsible for enforcing compliance with the employer's obligation to secure and pay required compensation for job-connected injuries, and for resolving disputes involving eligibility for and continued payment of workers' compensation benefits. A worker who is injured on the job should report the injury to the employer as soon as possible; under normal circumstances, a claim for compensation is barred unless notice is given within 2 years from the date of injury. In every case of injury or death reported by a worker or by the worker's dependents, the insurance carrier or the employer must either commence timely payment of compensation, or provide the claimant with a written notice showing a valid reason for denial and explaining the claimant's right to petition the Department for a hearing.

SECONDARY OR ASSOCIATED ENFORCEMENT AGENCY — *None.*