

GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA
SESSION 2017

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HOUSE BILL 205
PROPOSED COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE H205-PCS10116-RN-4

Short Title: Workers' Compensation/Prison Inmates.

(Public)

Sponsors:

Referred to:

March 1, 2017

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT AMENDING PROVISIONS OF THE WORKERS' COMPENSATION ACT
RELATING TO PRISONERS.

The General Assembly of North Carolina enacts:

SECTION 1. G.S. 97-13 reads as rewritten:

"§ 97-13. **Exceptions from provisions of Article.**

(a) **Employees of Certain Railroads.** – This Article shall not apply to railroads or railroad employees nor in any way repeal, amend, alter or affect Article 8 of Chapter 60 or any section thereof relating to the liability of railroads for injuries to employees, nor upon the trial of any action in tort for injuries not coming under the provisions of this Article, shall any provision herein be placed in evidence or be permitted to be argued to the jury. Provided, however, that the foregoing exemption to railroads and railroad employees shall not apply to employees of a State-owned railroad company, as defined in G.S. 124-11, or to electric street railroads or employees thereof; and this Article shall apply to electric street railroads and employees thereof and to this extent the provisions of Article 8 of Chapter 60 are hereby amended.

(b) **Casual Employment, Domestic Servants, Farm Laborers, Federal Government, Employer of Less than Three Employees.** – This Article shall not apply to casual employees, farm laborers when fewer than 10 full-time nonseasonal farm laborers are regularly employed by the same employer, federal government employees in North Carolina, and domestic servants, nor to employees of such persons, nor to any person, firm or private corporation that has regularly in service less than three employees in the same business within this State, except that any employer without regard to number of employees, including an employer of domestic servants, farm laborers, or one who previously had exempted himself, who has purchased workers' compensation insurance to cover his compensation liability shall be conclusively presumed during life of the policy to have accepted the provisions of this Article from the effective date of said policy and his employees shall be so bound unless waived as provided in this Article; provided however, that this Article shall apply to all employers of one or more employees who are employed in activities which involve the use or presence of radiation.

(c) **Most Prisoners.** – This Article shall not apply to prisoners being worked by the State or any subdivision thereof, ~~except to the following extent: as provided in this subsection and subsection (c1) of this section.~~ Whenever any prisoner assigned to the Division of Adult Correction of the Department of Public Safety shall suffer accidental injury or accidental death arising out of and in the course of the employment to which he had been assigned, if there be death or if the results of such injury continue until after the date of the lawful discharge of such prisoner to such an extent as to amount to a disability as defined in this Article, then such discharged prisoner or the dependents or next of kin of such discharged prisoner may have the benefit of this



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1 Article by applying to the Industrial Commission as any other employee; provided, such
2 application is made within 12 months from the date of the discharge; and provided further that the
3 maximum compensation to any prisoner or to the dependents or next of kin of any deceased
4 prisoner shall not exceed thirty dollars (\$30.00) per week and the period of compensation shall
5 relate to the date of his discharge rather than the date of the accident. If any person who has been
6 awarded compensation under the provisions of this subsection shall be recommitted to prison upon
7 conviction of an offense committed subsequent to the award, such compensation shall
8 immediately cease. Any awards made under the terms of this subsection shall be paid by the
9 Department of Public Safety from the funds available for the operation of the Division of Adult
10 Correction of the Department of Public Safety. The provisions of G.S. 97-10.1 and 97-10.2 shall
11 apply to prisoners and discharged prisoners entitled to compensation under this subsection and to
12 the State in the same manner as said section applies to employees and employers.

13 (c1) Certain Inmates. – Inmates employed pursuant to the Prison Industry Enhancement
14 Program shall receive workers' compensation based on the average weekly wage calculated
15 pursuant to G.S. 97-2(5).

16 (d) Sellers of Agricultural Products. – This Article shall not apply to persons, firms or
17 corporations engaged in selling agricultural products for the producers thereof on commission or
18 for other compensation, paid by the producers, provided the product is prepared for sale by the
19 producer."

20 **SECTION 2.** This act is effective when it becomes law.