

Stricken language would be deleted from and underlined language would be added to present law.

State of Arkansas  
95th General Assembly  
Regular Session, 2025

As Engrossed: S3/20/25

## A Bill

SENATE BILL 285

By: Senator J. Payton

### For An Act To Be Entitled

AN ACT TO MODIFY THE COMPENSATION RESTRICTIONS UNDER  
THE WORKERS' COMPENSATION LAW THAT RESULTED FROM  
INITIATED ACT 4 OF 1948; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.

### Subtitle

TO MODIFY THE COMPENSATION RESTRICTIONS  
UNDER THE WORKERS' COMPENSATION LAW THAT  
RESULTED FROM INITIATED ACT 4 OF 1948.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ARKANSAS:

SECTION 1. Arkansas Code § 11-9-501(b), concerning the limits of compensation payable to an injured employee for disability other than permanent partial disability under the Workers' Compensation Law, is amended to add an additional subdivision to read as follows:

(6)(A) For a disability or death which results from an injury occurring on and after January 1, 2026 the maximum weekly benefit payable shall be seventy percent (70%) of the average weekly wage of the injured employee.

(B) The maximum annual salary total of weekly benefit payments to an injured employee under subdivision (b)(6)(A) of this section is one hundred thousand dollars (\$100,000).

SECTION 2. Arkansas Code § 11-9-501(d), concerning the limits of compensation payable to an employee for permanent partial disability under the Workers' Compensation Law, is amended to read as follows:

(d)(1)(A) The permanent partial disability rate for compensation



payable to an employee for permanent partial disability which results from an injury occurring on or after July 1, 1986, shall not exceed sixty-six and two-thirds percent (66 $\frac{2}{3}$ %) of the employee's average weekly wage, with a twenty-dollar-per-week minimum, subject to a maximum of one hundred fifty-four dollars (\$154). However, if the employee's total disability rate for the injury would be two hundred five dollars and thirty-five cents (\$205.35) per week or greater, then the maximum permanent partial disability rate shall be seventy-five percent (75%) of the employee's total disability rate.

(B) The permanent partial disability rate for compensation payable to an employee for permanent partial disability which results from an injury occurring on or after January 1, 2026, shall not exceed seventy-five percent (75%) of the amount calculated under subdivision (b)(6)(A) of this section.

(2)(A) The permanent partial disability rate provided herein shall also apply to scheduled permanent injuries except those resulting in amputation or permanent total loss of use of a member.

(B) The permanent partial disability rate for amputation or permanent total loss of use of a member shall be the same as the employee's total disability rate as specified in subsection (b) of this section, ~~subject to the maximum as set forth in subdivision (b)(4) of this section.~~

~~(3) The provisions of this subsection shall apply only to those injuries which occur on or after January 1, 1996.~~

/s/J. Payton