



SPONSOR: Sen. Sokola & Sen. McDowell & Rep. Bolden
Sens. Hansen, Townsend; Reps. Baumbach, Chukwuocha,
Seigfried

DELAWARE STATE SENATE
150th GENERAL ASSEMBLY

SENATE BILL NO. 248

AN ACT TO AMEND TITLE 29 OF THE DELAWARE CODE RELATING TO THE DISABILITY INSURANCE PROGRAM.

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

1 Section 1. Amend Chapter 52A of Title 29 of the Delaware Code by making deletions as shown by strike through
2 and insertions as shown by underline as follows:

3 § 5259 COVID-19 Emergency Provision.

4 The requirements of § 5253(c)(5) of this title are hereby suspended for any employee approved for short-term
5 disability benefits who, as a result of suspension of non-emergency or elective surgeries by health care providers during the
6 2020 State of Emergency due to the COVID-19 public health threat, is unable to receive those health care services which
7 would enable the employee to return to work in compliance with that section. The Committee is hereby authorized to
8 approve, subject to terms and conditions determined by the Committee, (i) a supplemental disability wage equal to 15% of
9 salary as of the employee's date of disability for an employee whose short-term disability claim was approved or extended
10 for the entire short-term disability benefit period and who has been awarded long-term disability benefits because of the
11 inability to obtain non-emergency health care services necessary to return to work; and (ii) other adjustments to the
12 requirements of Chapter 52A of this title deemed necessary by the Committee to appropriately administer the disability
13 insurance program for those employees unable to obtain non-emergency or elective surgeries during the 2020 State of
14 Emergency due to the COVID-19 public health threat. The terms of this paragraph shall expire on December 30, 2020.

SYNOPSIS

The purpose of the Bill is to allow for the modifications to the Disability Insurance Program for state employees that were included in the Governor's Twelfth Modification to the COVID-19 State of Emergency to continue until December 30, 2020 in the event that the State of Emergency ends prior to that date.

Author: Senator Sokola