

1 State of Arkansas  
2 95th General Assembly  
3 Regular Session, 2025  
4

As Engrossed: S3/20/25

## A Bill

SENATE BILL 285

5 By: Senator J. Payton  
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### For An Act To Be Entitled

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

15 TO MODIFY THE COMPENSATION RESTRICTIONS  
16 UNDER THE WORKERS' COMPENSATION LAW THAT  
17 RESULTED FROM INITIATED ACT 4 OF 1948.  
18

19 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ARKANSAS:  
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21 SECTION 1. Arkansas Code § 11-9-501(b), concerning the limits of  
22 compensation payable to an injured employee for disability other than  
23 permanent partial disability under the Workers' Compensation Law, is amended  
24 to add an additional subdivision to read as follows:

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

29 (B) The maximum annual salary total of weekly benefit  
30 payments to an injured employee under subdivision (b)(6)(A) of this section  
31 is one hundred thousand dollars (\$100,000).  
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33 SECTION 2. Arkansas Code § 11-9-501(d), concerning the limits of  
34 compensation payable to an employee for permanent partial disability under  
35 the Workers' Compensation Law, is amended to read as follows:

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



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

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

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

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

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

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 25 /s/J. Payton  
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