

CHAPTER 800.

AN ACT to promote the general welfare of this State by providing compulsory insurance against accident or death of workmen engaged in extra-hazardous employments in this State, and providing for the form, kind and method of such insurance and the incidents thereto; and providing for the amounts of compensation payable thereunder and the person or persons to whom such compensation is payable; and providing for the creation of a State Industrial Accident Commission and defining its powers; and providing for the creation of a State Accident Fund; and providing for an appropriation to carry out the provisions of this Act; and providing for the abolishment in certain cases of the defenses of "Assumption of Risks," "Contributory Negligence" and the "Negligence of a Fellow Servant" in actions for personal injury and death, and to repeal Chapter 837 of the Acts of 1912, and to repeal Chapter 139 of the Acts of 1902; Chapter 153 of the Acts of 1910 as amended by the Acts of 1912, Chapter 445, and to provide for the equitable disposition of the funds created by virtue of the said Acts of 1902, Chapter 139 and the Acts of 1910, Chapter 153.

Whereas, The State of Maryland recognizes that the prosecution of various industrial enterprises which must be relied upon to create and preserve the wealth and prosperity of the State involves injury to large numbers of workmen, resulting in their partial or total incapacity or death, and that under the rules of the common law and the provisions of the statutes now in force an unequal burden is cast upon its citizens, and that in determining the responsibility of the employer on account of injuries sustained by his workmen, great and unnecessary cost is now incurred in litigation, which cost is borne by the workmen, the employers and the taxpayers, in part, in the maintenance of courts and juries to determine the question of responsibility under the law as it now exists; and

Whereas, in addition thereto, the State and its taxpayers are subjected to a heavy burden in providing care and support for such injured workmen and their dependents, which burden should, in so far as may be consistent with the rights and obligations of the people of the State, be more fairly distributed as in this Act provided; and