

LD1973460

## HOUSE BILL NO. 2272

Offered January 23, 1995

*A BILL to amend and reenact § 65.2-101 of the Code of Virginia, as it is currently effective and as it may become effective, relating to workers' compensation; definition of injury by accident.*

Patrons—Stump, Phillips and Spruill

Referred to Committee on Labor and Commerce

**Be it enacted by the General Assembly of Virginia:**

**1. That § 65.2-101 of the Code of Virginia, as it is currently effective and as it may become effective, is amended and reenacted as follows:**

§ 65.2-101. Definitions.

As used in this title:

"Award" means the grant or denial of benefits or other relief under this title or any rule adopted pursuant thereto.

"Average weekly wage" means:

A. 1. The earnings of the injured employee in the employment in which he was working at the time of the injury during the period of fifty-two weeks immediately preceding the date of the injury, divided by fifty-two; but if the injured employee lost more than seven consecutive calendar days during such period, although not in the same week, then the earnings for the remainder of the fifty-two weeks shall be divided by the number of weeks remaining after the time so lost has been deducted. When the employment prior to the injury extended over a period of less than fifty-two weeks, the method of dividing the earnings during that period by the number of weeks and parts thereof during which the employee earned wages shall be followed, provided that results fair and just to both parties will be thereby obtained. When, by reason of a shortness of time during which the employee has been in the employment of his employer or the casual nature or terms of his employment, it is impractical to compute the average weekly wages as above defined, regard shall be had to the average weekly amount which during the fifty-two weeks previous to the injury was being earned by a person of the same grade and character employed in the same class of employment in the same locality or community.

2. When for exceptional reasons the foregoing would be unfair either to the employer or employee, such other method of computing average weekly wages may be resorted to as will most nearly approximate the amount which the injured employee would be earning were it not for the injury.

B. Whenever allowances of any character made to an employee in lieu of wages are a specified part of the wage contract, they shall be deemed a part of his earnings. For the purpose of this title, the average weekly wage of the members of the Virginia National Guard and the Virginia State Defense Force, registered members on duty or in training of the United States Civil Defense Corps of this Commonwealth, and forest wardens shall be deemed to be such amount as will entitle them to the maximum compensation payable under this title; however, any award entered under the provisions of this title on behalf of members of the National Guard or their dependents, or registered members on duty or in training of the United States Civil Defense Corps of this Commonwealth or their dependents, shall be subject to credit for benefits paid them under existing or future federal law on account of injury or occupational disease covered by the provisions of this title.

C. Whenever volunteer firefighters, volunteer lifesaving or volunteer rescue squad members, volunteer law-enforcement chaplains, auxiliary or reserve police, and auxiliary or reserve deputy sheriffs are deemed employees under this title, their average weekly wage shall be deemed sufficient to produce the minimum compensation provided by this title for injured workers or their dependents.

D. The average weekly wage of persons, other than those covered in subdivision C of this definition, who respond to a hazardous materials incident at the request of the Department of Emergency Services shall be based upon the earnings of such persons from their primary employers.

"Change in condition" means a change in physical condition of the employee as well as any change in the conditions under which compensation was awarded, suspended, or terminated which would affect the right to, amount of, or duration of compensation.

"Commission" means the Virginia Workers' Compensation Commission as well as its former designation as the Virginia Industrial Commission.

"Employee" means:

A. 1. Every person, including a minor, in the service of another under any contract of hire or apprenticeship, written or implied, except (i) one whose employment is not in the usual course of the trade, business, occupation or profession of the employer or (ii) as otherwise provided in subsection B

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HB2272

60 of this definition.

61 2. Any apprentice, trainee, or retrainee who is regularly employed while receiving training or  
62 instruction outside of regular working hours and off the job, so long as the training or instruction is  
63 related to his employment and is authorized by his employer.

64 3. Members of the Virginia National Guard, whether on duty in a paid or unpaid status or when  
65 performing voluntary service to their unit in a nonduty status at the request of their commander.

66 Income benefits for members of the National Guard shall be terminated when they are able to return  
67 to their customary civilian employment or self-employment. If they are neither employed nor  
68 self-employed, those benefits shall terminate when they are able to return to their military duties. If a  
69 member of the National Guard who is fit to return to his customary civilian employment or  
70 self-employment remains unable to perform his military duties and thereby suffers loss of military pay  
71 which he would otherwise have earned, he shall be entitled to one day of income benefits for each unit  
72 training assembly or day of paid training which he is unable to attend.

73 4. Members of the Virginia State Defense Force.

74 5. Registered members of the United States Civil Defense Corps of this Commonwealth, whether on  
75 duty or in training.

76 6. Except as provided in subsection B of this definition, all officers and employees of the  
77 Commonwealth, including forest wardens, judges, clerks, deputy clerks and employees of juvenile and  
78 domestic relations district courts and general district courts, who shall be deemed employees of the  
79 Commonwealth.

80 7. Except as provided in subsection B of this definition, all officers and employees of a municipal  
81 corporation or political subdivision of the Commonwealth.

82 8. Except as provided in subsection B of this definition, every executive officer, including president,  
83 vice president, secretary, treasurer or other officer, elected or appointed in accordance with the charter  
84 and bylaws of a corporation, municipal or otherwise.

85 9. Policemen and firefighters, sheriffs and their deputies, town sergeants and their deputies, county  
86 and city commissioners of the revenue, county and city treasurers, attorneys for the Commonwealth, and  
87 clerks of circuit courts and their deputies, officers and employees, who shall be deemed employees of  
88 the respective cities, counties and towns in which their services are employed and by whom their  
89 salaries are paid or in which their compensation is earnable.

90 10. Members of the governing body of any county, city or town in the Commonwealth, whenever  
91 coverage under this title is extended to such members by resolution or ordinance duly adopted.

92 11. Volunteers, officers and employees of any commission or board of any authority created or  
93 controlled by a local governing body, or any local agency or public service corporation owned, operated  
94 or controlled by such local governing body, whenever coverage under this title is authorized by  
95 resolution or ordinance duly adopted by the governing board of any county, city, town, or any political  
96 subdivision thereof.

97 12. Except as provided in subsection B of this definition, volunteer firefighters, volunteer lifesaving  
98 or rescue squad members, volunteer law-enforcement chaplains, auxiliary or reserve police and auxiliary  
99 or reserve deputy sheriffs, who shall be deemed employees of (i) the political subdivision or state  
100 institution of higher education in which the principal office of such volunteer fire company, volunteer  
101 lifesaving or rescue squad, volunteer law-enforcement chaplains, auxiliary or reserve police force or  
102 auxiliary or reserve deputy sheriff force is located if the governing body of such political subdivision or  
103 state institution of higher education has adopted a resolution acknowledging such volunteer firefighters,  
104 volunteer lifesaving or rescue squad members, volunteer law-enforcement chaplains, auxiliary or reserve  
105 police or auxiliary or reserve deputy sheriffs as employees for the purposes of this title or (ii) in the  
106 case of volunteer firefighters or volunteer lifesaving or rescue squad members, the companies or squads  
107 for which volunteer services are provided whenever such companies or squads elect to be included as an  
108 employer under this title.

109 13. Volunteer firefighters, volunteer lifesaving or rescue squad members, volunteer law-enforcement  
110 chaplains, auxiliary or reserve police, auxiliary or reserve deputy sheriffs and any other persons who  
111 respond to a hazardous materials incident upon request of the Department of Emergency Services  
112 pursuant to a plan or agreement developed under § 44-146.35 or § 44-146.36, who shall be deemed  
113 employees of the Department of Emergency Services for the purposes of this title.

114 14. Any sole proprietor or all partners of a business electing to be included as an employee under the  
115 workers' compensation coverage of such business if the insurer is notified of this election. Any sole  
116 proprietor or the partners shall, upon such election, be entitled to employee benefits and be subject to  
117 employee responsibilities prescribed in this title.

118 When any partner or proprietor is entitled to receive coverage under this title, such person shall be  
119 subject to all provisions of this title as if he were an employee; however, the notices required under  
120 §§ 65.2-405 and 65.2-600 of this title shall be given to the insurance carrier, and the panel of physicians  
121 required under § 65.2-603 shall be selected by the insurance carrier.

15. The independent contractor of any employer subject to this title at the election of such employer provided (i) the independent contractor agrees to such inclusion and (ii) unless the employer is self-insured, the employer's insurer agrees in writing to such inclusion. All or part of the cost of the insurance coverage of the independent contractor may be borne by the independent contractor.

When any independent contractor is entitled to receive coverage under this section, such person shall be subject to all provisions of this title as if he were an employee, provided that the notices required under §§ 65.2-405 and 65.2-600 are given either to the employer or its insurance carrier.

However, nothing in this title shall be construed to make the employees of any independent contractor the employees of the person or corporation employing or contracting with such independent contractor.

16. The legal representative, dependents and any other persons to whom compensation may be payable when any person covered as an employee under this title shall be deceased.

17. Jail officers and jail superintendents employed by regional jails or jail farm boards or authorities, whether created pursuant to Article 3.1 (§ 53.1-95.2 et seq.) or Article 5 (§ 53.1-105 et seq.) of Chapter 3 of Title 53.1, or an act of assembly.

B. "Employee" shall not mean:

1. Officers and employees of the Commonwealth who are elected by the General Assembly, or appointed by the Governor, either with or without the confirmation of the Senate. This exception shall not apply to any "state employee" as defined in § 51.1-101 nor to Supreme Court Justices, judges of the Court of Appeals, judges of the circuit or district courts, members of the Workers' Compensation Commission and the State Corporation Commission, or the Superintendent of State Police.

2. Officers and employees of municipal corporations and political subdivisions of the Commonwealth who are elected by the people or by the governing bodies, and who act in purely administrative capacities and are to serve for a definite term of office.

3. Any person who is a licensed real estate salesperson, or a licensed real estate broker associated with a real estate broker, if (i) substantially all of the salesperson's or associated broker's remuneration is derived from real estate commissions, (ii) the services of the salesperson or associated broker are performed under a written contract specifying that the salesperson is an independent contractor, and (iii) such contract includes a provision that the salesperson or associated broker will not be treated as an employee for federal income tax purposes.

4. Any taxicab or executive sedan driver, provided the Commission is furnished evidence that such individual is excluded from taxation by the Federal Unemployment Tax Act.

5. Casual employees.

6. Domestic servants.

7. Farm and horticultural laborers, unless the employer regularly has in service more than two full-time employees.

8. Employees of any person, firm or private corporation, including any public service corporation, that has regularly in service less than three employees in the same business within this Commonwealth, unless such employees and their employers voluntarily elect to be bound by this title. However, this exemption shall not apply to the operators of underground coal mines or their employees. An executive officer who is not paid salary or wages on a regular basis at an agreed upon amount and who rejects coverage under this title pursuant to § 65.2-300 shall not be included as an employee for purposes of this subdivision.

9. Employees of any common carrier by railroad engaging in commerce between any of the several states or territories or between the District of Columbia and any of the states or territories and any foreign nation or nations, and any person suffering injury or death while he is employed by such carrier in such commerce. This title shall not be construed to lessen the liability of any such common carrier or to diminish or take away in any respect any right that any person so employed, or the personal representative, kindred or relation, or dependent of such person, may have under the act of Congress relating to the liability of common carriers by railroad to their employees in certain cases, approved April 22, 1908, or under §§ 8.01-57 through 8.01-62 or § 56-441.

10. Employees of common carriers by railroad who are engaged in intrastate trade or commerce. However, this title shall not be construed to lessen the liability of such common carriers or take away or diminish any right that any employee or, in case of his death, the personal representative of such employee of such common carrier may have under §§ 8.01-57 through 8.01-61 or § 56-441.

11. Except as provided in subsection A of this definition, a member of a volunteer fire-fighting, lifesaving or rescue squad when engaged in activities related principally to participation as a member of such squad whether or not the volunteer continues to receive compensation from his employer for time away from the job.

12. Except as otherwise provided in this title, noncompensated employees and noncompensated directors of corporations exempt from taxation pursuant to § 501 (c) (3) of Title 26 of the United States

183 Code (Internal Revenue Code of 1954).

184 B. "Employer" includes (i) any person, the Commonwealth or any political subdivision thereof and  
185 any individual, firm, association or corporation, or the receiver or trustee of the same, or the legal  
186 representative of a deceased employer, using the service of another for pay and (ii) any volunteer fire  
187 company or volunteer lifesaving or rescue squad electing to be included and maintaining coverage as an  
188 employer under this title. If the employer is insured, it includes his insurer so far as applicable.

189 "Executive officer" means the president, vice president, secretary, treasurer or other officer, elected or  
190 appointed in accordance with the charter and bylaws of a corporation. However, such term does not  
191 include noncompensated officers of corporations exempt from taxation pursuant to § 501 (c) (3) of Title  
192 26 of the United States Code (Internal Revenue Code of 1954).

193 "Filed" means hand delivered to the Commission's office in Richmond or any regional office  
194 maintained by the Commission; sent by telegraph, electronic mail or facsimile transmission; or posted at  
195 any post office of the United States Postal Service by certified or registered mail. Filing by first-class  
196 mail, telegraph, electronic mail or facsimile transmission shall be deemed completed only when the  
197 application actually reaches a Commission office.

198 "Injury" means only injury by accident arising out of and in the course of the employment or  
199 occupational disease as defined in Chapter 4 (§ 65.2-400 et seq.) of this title and does not include a  
200 disease in any form, except when it results naturally and unavoidably from either of the foregoing  
201 causes. *For the purposes of this definition, "accident" includes a mechanical change in the body which*  
202 *occurs within the course of a single work shift.*

203 § 65.2-101. (Delayed effective date) Definitions.

204 As used in this title:

205 "Award" means the grant or denial of benefits or other relief under this title or any rule adopted  
206 pursuant thereto.

207 "Average weekly wage" means:

208 A. 1. The earnings of the injured employee in the employment in which he was working at the time  
209 of the injury during the period of fifty-two weeks immediately preceding the date of the injury, divided  
210 by fifty-two; but if the injured employee lost more than seven consecutive calendar days during such  
211 period, although not in the same week, then the earnings for the remainder of the fifty-two weeks shall  
212 be divided by the number of weeks remaining after the time so lost has been deducted. When the  
213 employment prior to the injury extended over a period of less than fifty-two weeks, the method of  
214 dividing the earnings during that period by the number of weeks and parts thereof during which the  
215 employee earned wages shall be followed, provided that results fair and just to both parties will be  
216 thereby obtained. When, by reason of a shortness of time during which the employee has been in the  
217 employment of his employer or the casual nature or terms of his employment, it is impractical to  
218 compute the average weekly wages as above defined, regard shall be had to the average weekly amount  
219 which during the fifty-two weeks previous to the injury was being earned by a person of the same grade  
220 and character employed in the same class of employment in the same locality or community.

221 2. When for exceptional reasons the foregoing would be unfair either to the employer or employee,  
222 such other method of computing average weekly wages may be resorted to as will most nearly  
223 approximate the amount which the injured employee would be earning were it not for the injury.

224 B. Whenever allowances of any character made to an employee in lieu of wages are a specified part  
225 of the wage contract, they shall be deemed a part of his earnings. For the purpose of this title, the  
226 average weekly wage of the members of the Virginia National Guard and the Virginia State Defense  
227 Force, registered members on duty or in training of the United States Civil Defense Corps of this  
228 Commonwealth, and forest wardens shall be deemed to be such amount as will entitle them to the  
229 maximum compensation payable under this title; however, any award entered under the provisions of  
230 this title on behalf of members of the National Guard or their dependents, or registered members on  
231 duty or in training of the United States Civil Defense Corps of this Commonwealth or their dependents,  
232 shall be subject to credit for benefits paid them under existing or future federal law on account of injury  
233 or occupational disease covered by the provisions of this title.

234 C. Whenever volunteer firefighters, volunteer lifesaving or volunteer rescue squad members,  
235 volunteer law-enforcement chaplains, auxiliary or reserve police, and auxiliary or reserve deputy sheriffs  
236 are deemed employees under this title, their average weekly wage shall be deemed sufficient to produce  
237 the minimum compensation provided by this title for injured workers or their dependents.

238 D. The average weekly wage of persons, other than those covered in subdivision C of this definition,  
239 who respond to a hazardous materials incident at the request of the Department of Emergency Services  
240 shall be based upon the earnings of such persons from their primary employers.

241 "Change in condition" means a change in physical condition of the employee as well as any change  
242 in the conditions under which compensation was awarded, suspended, or terminated which would affect  
243 the right to, amount of, or duration of compensation.

244 "Commission" means the Virginia Workers' Compensation Commission as well as its former

designation as the Virginia Industrial Commission.

"Employee" means:

A. 1. Every person, including a minor, in the service of another under any contract of hire or apprenticeship, written or implied, except (i) one whose employment is not in the usual course of the trade, business, occupation or profession of the employer or (ii) as otherwise provided in subsection B of this definition.

2. Any apprentice, trainee, or retrainee who is regularly employed while receiving training or instruction outside of regular working hours and off the job, so long as the training or instruction is related to his employment and is authorized by his employer.

3. Members of the Virginia National Guard, whether on duty in a paid or unpaid status or when performing voluntary service to their unit in a nonduty status at the request of their commander.

Income benefits for members of the National Guard shall be terminated when they are able to return to their customary civilian employment or self-employment. If they are neither employed nor self-employed, those benefits shall terminate when they are able to return to their military duties. If a member of the National Guard who is fit to return to his customary civilian employment or self-employment remains unable to perform his military duties and thereby suffers loss of military pay which he would otherwise have earned, he shall be entitled to one day of income benefits for each unit training assembly or day of paid training which he is unable to attend.

4. Members of the Virginia State Defense Force.

5. Registered members of the United States Civil Defense Corps of this Commonwealth, whether on duty or in training.

6. Except as provided in subsection B of this definition, all officers and employees of the Commonwealth, including forest wardens, judges, clerks, deputy clerks and employees of family courts and general district courts, who shall be deemed employees of the Commonwealth.

7. Except as provided in subsection B of this definition, all officers and employees of a municipal corporation or political subdivision of the Commonwealth.

8. Except as provided in subsection B of this definition, every executive officer, including president, vice president, secretary, treasurer or other officer, elected or appointed in accordance with the charter and bylaws of a corporation, municipal or otherwise.

9. Policemen and firefighters, sheriffs and their deputies, town sergeants and their deputies, county and city commissioners of the revenue, county and city treasurers, attorneys for the Commonwealth, and clerks of circuit courts and their deputies, officers and employees, who shall be deemed employees of the respective cities, counties and towns in which their services are employed and by whom their salaries are paid or in which their compensation is earnable.

10. Members of the governing body of any county, city or town in the Commonwealth, whenever coverage under this title is extended to such members by resolution or ordinance duly adopted.

11. Volunteers, officers and employees of any commission or board of any authority created or controlled by a local governing body, or any local agency or public service corporation owned, operated or controlled by such local governing body, whenever coverage under this title is authorized by resolution or ordinance duly adopted by the governing board of any county, city, town, or any political subdivision thereof.

12. Except as provided in subsection B of this definition, volunteer firefighters, volunteer lifesaving or rescue squad members, volunteer law-enforcement chaplains, auxiliary or reserve police and auxiliary or reserve deputy sheriffs, who shall be deemed employees of (i) the political subdivision or state institution of higher education in which the principal office of such volunteer fire company, volunteer lifesaving or rescue squad, volunteer law-enforcement chaplains, auxiliary or reserve police force or auxiliary or reserve deputy sheriff force is located if the governing body of such political subdivision or state institution of higher education has adopted a resolution acknowledging such volunteer firefighters, volunteer lifesaving or rescue squad members, volunteer law-enforcement chaplains, auxiliary or reserve police or auxiliary or reserve deputy sheriffs as employees for the purposes of this title or (ii) in the case of volunteer firefighters or volunteer lifesaving or rescue squad members, the companies or squads for which volunteer services are provided whenever such companies or squads elect to be included as an employer under this title.

13. Volunteer firefighters, volunteer lifesaving or rescue squad members, volunteer law-enforcement chaplains, auxiliary or reserve police, auxiliary or reserve deputy sheriffs and any other persons who respond to a hazardous materials incident upon request of the Department of Emergency Services pursuant to a plan or agreement developed under § 44-146.35 or § 44-146.36, who shall be deemed employees of the Department of Emergency Services for the purposes of this title.

14. Any sole proprietor or all partners of a business electing to be included as an employee under the workers' compensation coverage of such business if the insurer is notified of this election. Any sole proprietor or the partners shall, upon such election, be entitled to employee benefits and be subject to

306 employee responsibilities prescribed in this title.

307 When any partner or proprietor is entitled to receive coverage under this title, such person shall be  
308 subject to all provisions of this title as if he were an employee; however, the notices required under  
309 §§ 65.2-405 and 65.2-600 of this title shall be given to the insurance carrier, and the panel of physicians  
310 required under § 65.2-603 shall be selected by the insurance carrier.

311 15. The independent contractor of any employer subject to this title at the election of such employer  
312 provided (i) the independent contractor agrees to such inclusion and (ii) unless the employer is  
313 self-insured, the employer's insurer agrees in writing to such inclusion. All or part of the cost of the  
314 insurance coverage of the independent contractor may be borne by the independent contractor.

315 When any independent contractor is entitled to receive coverage under this section, such person shall  
316 be subject to all provisions of this title as if he were an employee, provided that the notices required  
317 under §§ 65.2-405 and 65.2-600 are given either to the employer or its insurance carrier.

318 However, nothing in this title shall be construed to make the employees of any independent  
319 contractor the employees of the person or corporation employing or contracting with such independent  
320 contractor.

321 16. The legal representative, dependents and any other persons to whom compensation may be  
322 payable when any person covered as an employee under this title shall be deceased.

323 17. Jail officers and jail superintendents employed by regional jails or jail farm boards or authorities,  
324 whether created pursuant to Article 3.1 (§ 53.1-95.2 et seq.) or Article 5 (§ 53.1-105 et seq.) of Chapter  
325 3 of Title 53.1, or an act of assembly.

326 B. "Employee" shall not mean:

327 1. Officers and employees of the Commonwealth who are elected by the General Assembly, or  
328 appointed by the Governor, either with or without the confirmation of the Senate. This exception shall  
329 not apply to any "state employee" as defined in § 51.1-124.3 nor to Supreme Court Justices, judges of  
330 the Court of Appeals, judges of the circuit or district courts, members of the Workers' Compensation  
331 Commission and the State Corporation Commission, or the Superintendent of State Police.

332 2. Officers and employees of municipal corporations and political subdivisions of the Commonwealth  
333 who are elected by the people or by the governing bodies, and who act in purely administrative  
334 capacities and are to serve for a definite term of office.

335 3. Any person who is a licensed real estate salesperson, or a licensed real estate broker associated  
336 with a real estate broker, if (i) substantially all of the salesperson's or associated broker's remuneration is  
337 derived from real estate commissions, (ii) the services of the salesperson or associated broker are  
338 performed under a written contract specifying that the salesperson is an independent contractor, and (iii)  
339 such contract includes a provision that the salesperson or associated broker will not be treated as an  
340 employee for federal income tax purposes.

341 4. Any taxicab or executive sedan driver, provided the Commission is furnished evidence that such  
342 individual is excluded from taxation by the Federal Unemployment Tax Act.

343 5. Casual employees.

344 6. Domestic servants.

345 7. Farm and horticultural laborers, unless the employer regularly has in service more than two  
346 full-time employees.

347 8. Employees of any person, firm or private corporation, including any public service corporation,  
348 that has regularly in service less than three employees in the same business within this Commonwealth,  
349 unless such employees and their employers voluntarily elect to be bound by this title. However, this  
350 exemption shall not apply to the operators of underground coal mines or their employees. An executive  
351 officer who is not paid salary or wages on a regular basis at an agreed upon amount and who rejects  
352 coverage under this title pursuant to § 65.2-300 shall not be included as an employee for purposes of  
353 this subdivision.

354 9. Employees of any common carrier by railroad engaging in commerce between any of the several  
355 states or territories or between the District of Columbia and any of the states or territories and any  
356 foreign nation or nations, and any person suffering injury or death while he is employed by such carrier  
357 in such commerce. This title shall not be construed to lessen the liability of any such common carrier or  
358 to diminish or take away in any respect any right that any person so employed, or the personal  
359 representative, kindred or relation, or dependent of such person, may have under the act of Congress  
360 relating to the liability of common carriers by railroad to their employees in certain cases, approved  
361 April 22, 1908, or under §§ 8.01-57 through 8.01-62 or § 56-441.

362 10. Employees of common carriers by railroad who are engaged in intrastate trade or commerce.  
363 However, this title shall not be construed to lessen the liability of such common carriers or take away or  
364 diminish any right that any employee or, in case of his death, the personal representative of such  
365 employee of such common carrier may have under §§ 8.01-57 through 8.01-61 or § 56-441.

366 11. Except as provided in subsection A of this definition, a member of a volunteer fire-fighting,  
367 lifesaving or rescue squad when engaged in activities related principally to participation as a member of

such squad whether or not the volunteer continues to receive compensation from his employer for time away from the job.

12. Except as otherwise provided in this title, noncompensated employees and noncompensated directors of corporations exempt from taxation pursuant to § 501 (c) (3) of Title 26 of the United States Code (Internal Revenue Code of 1954).

"Employer" includes (i) any person, the Commonwealth or any political subdivision thereof and any individual, firm, association or corporation, or the receiver or trustee of the same, or the legal representative of a deceased employer, using the service of another for pay and (ii) any volunteer fire company or volunteer lifesaving or rescue squad electing to be included and maintaining coverage as an employer under this title. If the employer is insured, it includes his insurer so far as applicable.

"Executive officer" means the president, vice president, secretary, treasurer or other officer, elected or appointed in accordance with the charter and bylaws of a corporation. However, such term does not include noncompensated officers of corporations exempt from taxation pursuant to § 501 (c) (3) of Title 26 of the United States Code (Internal Revenue Code of 1954).

"Filed" means hand delivered to the Commission's office in Richmond or any regional office maintained by the Commission; sent by telegraph, electronic mail or facsimile transmission; or posted at any post office of the United States Postal Service by certified or registered mail. Filing by first-class mail, telegraph, electronic mail or facsimile transmission shall be deemed completed only when the application actually reaches a Commission office.

"Injury" means only injury by accident arising out of and in the course of the employment or occupational disease as defined in Chapter 4 (§ 65.2-400 et seq.) of this title and does not include a disease in any form, except when it results naturally and unavoidably from either of the foregoing causes. *For the purposes of this definition, "accident" includes a mechanical change in the body which occurs within the course of a single work shift.*