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19 20 **HOUSE BILL NO. 2137**

House Amendments in [] — January 29, 1997

A BILL to amend and reenact § 65.2-524 of the Code of Virginia, relating to worker's compensation; failure to pay within two weeks after due.

Patrons—Nixon, Abbitt, Crouch, Purkey and Reid

Referred to Committee on Labor and Commerce

Be it enacted by the General Assembly of Virginia:

1. That § 65.2-524 of the Code of Virginia is amended and reenacted as follows:

§ 65.2-524. Failure to pay compensation within two weeks after it becomes due.

If any payment is not paid within two weeks after it becomes due, there shall be added to such unpaid compensation an amount equal to twenty percent thereof. No such penalty shall be added, however, to any payment made within two weeks after the expiration of (i) the period in which Commission review may be requested pursuant to § 65.2-705 [or ,] (ii) the period in which a notice of appeal may be filed pursuant to § 65.2-706 [, or (iii) when the Commonwealth of Virginia has issued a payroll check to the employee in lieu of compensation covering the period of disability. No penalty shall be assessed against the Commonwealth when the Commonwealth has issued a regular payroll check to the employee in lieu of compensation covering the period of disability.]

2. That an emergency exists and this act is in force from its passage.