

(a) To administer and enforce the laws of this Commonwealth, as now existing or hereafter enacted, relating to workmen's compensation: Provided, however, That the Workmen's Compensation Board and the Workmen's Compensation Referees shall perform their respective duties independently of the Secretary of Labor and Industry, or any other official of the department, except that all clerical, stenographic and other assistance required by the Workmen's Compensation Board and the several Workmen's Compensation Referees shall be appointed by the department as provided in this act;

(b) To receive and classify reports of all accidents; to receive and approve or disapprove agreements, supplemental agreements, receipts, final receipts, and other papers in workmen's compensation cases, which have heretofore been subject to approval by the Workmen's Compensation Board, and to notify the parties of its approval or disapproval within thirty days after receipt of such agreements, supplemental agreements, receipts, final receipts, or other papers, as provided by law;

(c) To follow up all cases in which workmen's compensation agreements shall have been filed, and see that such agreements are fulfilled in accordance with the provisions thereof and the laws of this Commonwealth;

(d) To advise injured workmen of their rights under the workmen's compensation laws;

(e) From time to time, to divide the State into such number of workmen's compensation districts as it may, with the approval of the Executive Board, deem advisable for the proper administration of the workmen's compensation laws;

(f) To receive and refer to the Workmen's Compensation Board claims in contested cases, and mail decisions of the Workmen's Compensation Board, and of Workmen's Compensation Referees; in all contested cases, to claimants and defendants;

(g) To render to the Workmen's Compensation Board any reasonable assistance requested by the board in the conduct of its work;

(h) Except in cases in which the Commonwealth's liability therefor is covered by insurance, to prepare and issue to the Auditor General certificates or requisitions for the payment of workmen's compensation to injured employes of the Commonwealth.

Section 2209. Rehabilitation.—The Department of Labor and Industry shall have the power:

(a) To render aid to persons injured in industrial pursuits, to arrange for medical treatment for such persons, and procure artificial limbs and appliances to enable them to engage in remunerative occupations;

(b) To make surveys to ascertain the number and condition of physically handicapped persons within the Commonwealth;

(c) To cooperate with the Department of Public Instruction in arranging for training courses in the public schools, or other educational institutions, for persons injured in industrial pursuits, and to arrange for such courses in industrial or agricultural establishments;