AN ACT

RELATING TO INSURANCE; AMENDING THE WORKERS' COMPENSATION ACT AND THE NEW MEXICO OCCUPATIONAL DISEASE DISABLEMENT LAW TO CHANGE TEMPORARY DISABILITY BENEFITS; PROVIDING FOR LIFETIME MAXIMUM PERIOD.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF NEW MEXICO:

SECTION 1. Section 52-1-41 NMSA 1978 (being Laws 1959, Chapter 67, Section 20, as amended) is amended to read:

"52-1-41. COMPENSATION BENEFITS--TOTAL DISABILITY.--

A. For total disability, the worker shall receive, during the period of that disability, sixty-six and two-thirds percent of the worker's average weekly wage, and not to exceed a maximum compensation of eighty-five percent of the average weekly wage in the state, a week, effective July 1, 1987 through December 31, 1999, and thereafter not to exceed a maximum compensation of one hundred percent of the average weekly wage in the state, a week; and to be not less than a minimum compensation of thirty-six dollars (\$36.00) a week.

B. For permanent total disability as set forth in Section 52-1-25 NMSA 1978, the worker shall receive compensation benefits for the remainder of the worker's life. For temporary disability as set forth in Section 52-1-25.1 NMSA 1978, the maximum period of compensation is subject to the maximum duration and limitation on compensation benefits set forth in Section 52-1-47 NMSA 1978.