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WORKERS' COMPENSATION ALERT

TO: Our Clients and Friends

FROM: Bleakley, Cypher, Parent, Warren & Quinn, P.C.

RE: Michigan Senate Passes Additional Amendment to Worker's Disability Compensation Act regarding Medical Marijuana

DATE: May 23, 2012

We at Bleakley, Cypher, Parent, Warren & Quinn would like to update you regarding an additional amendment to the Michigan Worker's Disability Compensation Act that was recently passed by the Michigan Senate and now sits before the House.

In February 2012, the Michigan Senate introduced Senate Bill 933, which proposes an amendment to Section 315 of the WDCA. Under Section 315, employers/carriers are responsible for paying for all medical treatment that is reasonable, necessary, and related to a work injury. Senate Bill 933 proposes that the WDCA be amended so that an employer/carrier is not required to reimburse an employee for costs associated with the use of medical marijuana. In other words, the proposed amendment would exclude medical marijuana from treatment covered under Section 315.

We can now report that the Michigan Senate passed this Bill on May 8, 2012 by a vote of 35-2. The Bill is now before the Michigan House for consideration and vote. Given the lopsided Senate vote, it is expected that the House will likewise pass the Bill. We will be sure to update you as the legislative process continues.

*Also Licensed in Illinois