As Passed by the Senate

124th General Assembly Regular Session 2001-2002

Sub. H. B. No. 75

1

2

3

4

5

6

7

REPRESENTATIVES Williams, Jones, Carey, Core, Hoops, Calvert, Allen,
 D. Miller, Oakar, Faber, Evans, Buehrer, Barrett, R. Miller, Schmidt,
 Womer Benjamin, Grendell, Coates, Setzer, Cirelli, Perry, Patton, Schaffer
 SENATOR Nein

A BILL

To amend sections 4121.37, 4121.47, 4121.62, 4123.25, and 4123.291 and to repeal section 4121.48 of the Revised Code to make appropriations for the Bureau of Workers' Compensation for the biennium beginning July 1, 2001, and ending June 30, 2003, and to provide authorization and conditions for the operation of Bureau programs.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF OHIO:

 Section 1. That sections 4121.37, 4121.47, 4121.62, 4123.25,
 8

 and 4123.291 of the Revised Code be amended to read as follows:
 9

sec. 4121.37. The administrator of workers' compensation 10 having, by virtue of Section 35 of Article II, Ohio Constitution, 11 the expenditure of the fund therein created for the investigation 12 and prevention of industrial accidents and diseases, shall, with 13 the advice and consent of the workers' compensation oversight 14 commission, in the exercise of the administrator's authority and 15 in the performance of the administrator's duty, employ a 16 superintendent and the necessary experts, engineers, 17

investigators, clerks, and stenographers for the efficient operation of a division of safety and hygiene of the bureau of workers' compensation, which is hereby created.

The general assembly hereby declares that in furtherance of 21 22 the authority granted to the administrator pursuant to Section 35 of Article II, Ohio Constitution, and to encourage public 23 employers to operate and maintain safe places of employment for 24 public employees of this state, the administrator, with the advice 25 and consent of the oversight commission, may transfer funds, 26 certified as provided in section 126.07 of the Revised Code, from 27 the safety and hygiene fund to the occupational safety loan fund 28 created in section 4121.48 of the Revised Code, for the purposes 29 of that section. 30

The administrator of workers' compensation, with the advice 31 and consent of the oversight commission, shall pay into the safety 32 and hygiene fund, which is hereby created in the state treasury, 33 the portion of the contributions paid by employers, calculated as 34 though all employers paid premiums based upon payroll, not to 35 exceed one per cent thereof in any year, as is necessary for the 36 payment of the salary of the superintendent of the division of 37 safety and hygiene and the compensation of the other employees of 38 the division of safety and hygiene, and the expenses of 39 investigations and researches for the prevention of industrial 40 accidents and diseases. All investment earning earnings of the 41 fund shall be credited to the fund. The administrator has the same 42 powers to invest any of the funds belonging to the fund as are 43 delegated to the administrator under section 4123.44 of the 44 Revised Code with respect to the state insurance fund. The 45 superintendent, under the direction of the administrator, with the 46 advice and consent of the oversight commission, shall conduct 47 investigations and researches for the prevention of industrial 48 accidents and diseases, conduct loss prevention programs and 49

Page 2

18

19

courses for employers, establish and administrate cooperative 50 programs with employers for the purchase of individual safety 51 equipment for employees, and print and distribute information as 52 may be of benefit to employers and employees. The administrator 53 shall pay from the safety and hygiene fund the salary of the 54 superintendent of the division of safety and hygiene, the 55 compensation of the other employees of the division of safety and 56 hygiene, the expenses necessary or incidental to investigations 57 and researches for the prevention of industrial accidents and 58 diseases, and the cost of printing and distributing such 59 information. 60

The superintendent, under the direction of the administrator, 61 shall prepare an annual report, addressed to the governor, on the 62 amount of the expenditures and the purposes for which they have 63 been made, and the results of the investigations and researches. 64 The administrator shall include the administrative costs, 65 salaries, and other expenses of the division of safety and hygiene 66 as a part of the budget of the bureau of workers' compensation 67 that is submitted to the director of budget and management and 68 shall identify those expenditures separately from other bureau 69 expenditures. 70

The superintendent shall be a competent person with at least 71 five years' experience in industrial accident or disease 72 prevention work. The superintendent and up to six positions in the 73 division of safety and hygiene as the administrator, with the 74 advice and consent of the oversight commission, designates are in 75 the unclassified civil service of the state as long as the 76 administrator, with the advice and consent of the oversight 77 commission, determines the positions subordinate to the 78 superintendent are primarily and distinctively administrative, 79 managerial, or professional in character. All other full-time 80 employees of the division of safety and hygiene are in the 81

classified civil service of the state.

Sec. 4121.47. (A) No employer shall violate a specific safety 83 rule adopted by the administrator of workers' compensation 84 pursuant to section 4121.13 of the Revised Code or an act of the 85 general assembly to protect the lives, health, and safety of 86 employees pursuant to Section 35 of Article II, Ohio Constitution. 87 Chapter 4167. of the Revised Code and rules and standards adopted 88 thereunder are not the rules or enactment referred to in this 89 division and shall not be considered as such for purposes of this 90 section. 91

(B) If a staff hearing officer, in the course of his the 92 staff hearing officer's determination of a claim for an additional 93 award under Section 35 of Article II, Ohio Constitution, finds the 94 employer guilty of violating division (A) of this section, he the 95 staff hearing officer shall, in addition to any award paid to the 96 claimant, issue an order to the employer to correct the violation 97 within the period of time he the staff hearing officer fixes. For 98 any violation occurring within twenty-four months of the last 99 violation, the staff hearing officer shall assess against the 100 employer a civil penalty in an amount he the staff hearing officer 101 determines up to a maximum of fifty thousand dollars for each 102 violation. In fixing the exact penalty, the staff hearing officer 103 shall base his the decision upon the size of the employer as 104 measured by the number of employees, assets, and earnings of the 105 106 employer.

(C) An employer dissatisfied with the imposition of a civil 107 penalty pursuant to division (B) of this section may appeal the 108 staff hearing officer's decision, if the commission refuses to 109 hear the appeal under division (E) of section 4123.511 of the 110 Revised Code, or a decision of the commission, if the commission 111 hears the appeal under that division, to a court of common pleas 112

Page 4

pursuant to the Rules of Civil Procedure. An appeal operates to 113 stay the payment of the fine pending the appeal. 114

(D) The administrator shall deposit all penalties collected
pursuant to this section in the occupational safety loan program
safety and hygiene fund established pursuant to section 4121.48
4121.37 of the Revised Code.

Sec. 4121.62. (A) The authority granted to the administrator 119 of workers' compensation pursuant to sections 4121.61 to 4121.69 120 of the Revised Code includes the authority to do all of the 121 following: 122

(1) Contract with any public or private person for therendition of rehabilitation services;124

(2) Take actions and utilize money in the state insurance
fund as necessary to obtain federal funds and assistance in the
maximum amounts and most advantageous proportions and terms
possible;

(3) Conduct rehabilitation educational programs for employers 129and employees; 130

(4) Establish within the bureau of workers' compensation a
rehabilitation division under the supervision of a director of
rehabilitation appointed by and responsible to the administrator.

(B) The director of the division established is in the 134 unclassified civil service of the state. The appointing authority 135 may designate up to three positions at each facility under the 136 jurisdiction of the division, and up to six positions in the 137 division which are part of the director's immediate staff as being 138 in the unclassified service of the state as long as the 139 administrator determines that the positions are primarily and 140 distinctively administrative, managerial, or professional. All 141 other full-time employees of the division are in the classified 142

civil service.

(C) The administrator shall establish fees for use of 144 services offered by the division of rehabilitation, including, 145 without limitation, the expense of providing rehabilitation 146 services, counseling, and training. The administrator shall adopt 147 rules, in accordance with Chapter 119. of the Revised Code, which 148 establish the specific services the division offers and the amount 149 of the fee for those services, which amount shall be based upon 150 the actual cost of the division providing the services to the 151 employer and employee. 152

(D) Nothing in sections 4121.61 to 4121.69 of the Revised
Code shall be interpreted to grant authority to the administrator
to require a claimant to utilize a public provider of
rehabilitation services, counseling, or training.

(E) There is hereby established in the state treasury the
157
Camera center fund. The fund shall consist of all fees the
administrator charges persons for the use of the services of the
159
Camera center and all rent the center receives from its tenants.
160
The fund shall be used solely to pay for the provision of
161
rehabilitation services and expenses of the Camera center. All
163

Sec. 4123.25. (A) No employer shall knowingly misrepresent to 164 the bureau of workers' compensation the amount or classification 165 of payroll upon which the premium under this chapter is based. 166 Whoever violates this division shall be liable to the state in an 167 amount determined by the administrator of workers' compensation 168 for not more than ten times the amount of the difference in 169 between the premium paid and the amount the employer should have 170 paid. The liability to the state under this division shall may be 171 enforced in a civil action in the name of the state, and all sums 172 collected under this division shall be paid into the state 173

Page 6

insurance fund.

(B) No self-insuring employer shall knowingly misrepresent 175 the amount of paid compensation paid by such employer for purposes 176 of the assessments provided under this chapter and Chapter 4121. 177 of the Revised Code as required by section 4123.35 of the Revised 178 Code. Whoever violates this division is liable to the state in an 179 amount assessed determined by the self-insuring employers 180 evaluation board pursuant to division (C) of section 4123.352 of 181 the Revised Code or for an amount the board determines that is not 182 more than ten times the amount of the difference between the 183 assessment paid and the amount of the assessment that should have 184 been paid along with any other penalty as determined by the board. 185 The liability to the state under this division may be enforced in 186 a civil action in the name of the state and all sums collected 187 under this division shall be paid into the self-insurance 188 assessment fund created pursuant to division (K) of section 189 4123.35 of the Revised Code. 190

(C) The administrator of workers' compensation, with the191advice and consent of the workers' compensation oversight192commission, shall adopt rules establishing criteria for193determining both of the following:194

(1) The amount of the penalty assessed against an employer195for a violation of division (A) of this section;196

(2) Acts or omissions that do not constitute a violation of197division (A) or (B) of this section.198

Sec. 4123.291. (A) An adjudicating committee appointed by the 199 administrator of workers' compensation to hear any matter 200 specified in divisions (B)(1) to (6) of this section shall hear 201 the matter within sixty days of the date on which an employer 202 files the request, protest, or petition. An employer desiring to 203 file a request, protest, or petition regarding any matter 204

174

specified in divisions (B)(1) to (6) of this section shall file205the request, protest, or petition to the adjudicating committee on206or before twenty-four months after the administrator sends notice207of the determination about which the employer is filing the208request, protest, or petition.209

(B) An employer who is adversely affected by a decision of an 210 adjudicating committee appointed by the administrator may appeal 211 the decision of the committee to the administrator or his the 212 administrator's designee. The employer shall file the appeal in 213 writing within thirty days after the employer receives the 214 decision of the adjudicating committee. The administrator or his 215 the designee shall hear the appeal and hold a hearing, provided 216 that the decision of the adjudicating committee relates to one of 217 the following: 218

(1) An employer request for a waiver of a default in the payment of premiums pursuant to section 4123.37 of the Revised Code;

(2) An employer request for the settlement of liability as a 222noncomplying employer under section 4123.75 of the Revised Code; 223

(3) An employer petition objecting to the assessment of a 224
premium pursuant to section 4123.37 of the Revised Code and the 225
rules adopted pursuant to that section; 226

(4) An employer request for the abatement of penalties
assessed pursuant to section 4123.32 of the Revised Code and the
rules adopted pursuant to that section;
229

(5) An employer protest relating to an audit finding or a
determination of a manual classification, experience rating, or
transfer or combination of risk experience;
232

(6) Any decision relating to any other risk premium matterunder Chapters 4121., 4123., and 4131. of the Revised Code.234

Page 8

219

220

 Section 2. That existing sections 4121.37, 4121.47, 4121.62,
 235

 4123.25, and 4123.291 and section 4121.48 of the Revised Code are
 236

 hereby repealed.
 237

Section 3. (A) The Administrator of Workers' Compensation, 238 with the advice and consent of the Workers' Compensation Oversight 239 Commission, may adopt rules that identify specified medical 240 conditions that have a historical record of being allowed whenever 241 included in a claim. The Administrator shall designate the rules 242 to be effective only until three years after the effective date of 243 this section. The Administrator, for a period of three years after 244 the effective date of this section, may grant immediate allowance 245 of any medical condition identified in those rules upon the filing 246 of a claim involving that medical condition and may make immediate 2.47 payment of medical bills for any medical condition identified in 248 those rules that is included in a claim. If an employer contests 249 the allowance of a claim involving any medical condition 250 identified in those rules, and the claim is disallowed, payment 251 for the medical condition included in that claim shall be charged 252 to and paid from the surplus fund created under section 4123.34 of 253 the Revised Code. 254

(B) The Administrator shall establish a pilot program to 255determine the effectiveness of implementing division (A) of this 256section. 257

Section 4. The Administrator of Workers' Compensation shall 258 submit a series of reports to the Workers' Compensation Oversight 259 Commission, the Office of Budget and Management, the Legislative 260 Service Commission, and the General Assembly semiannually during 261 the 2001-2003 biennium, beginning on or before October 1, 2001, 262 containing information relative to all of the following: 263

(A) The premium cost per worker, which reports the average 264

265 annual cost a state fund employer pays to provide workers' 266 compensation coverage for its employees. The premium cost per 267 worker is calculated by adding together an employer's total 268 amounts of premiums and assessments paid during a calendar year 269 and dividing that sum by the employer's average number of workers.

(B) The claims cost per worker, which reports the average 270 annual benefit cost paid for each worker who is employed by a 271 state fund employer during the preceding twelve months. The claims 272 cost per worker is calculated by dividing an employer's total 273 claim expenses paid during the preceding twelve months by the 274 employer's average number of workers. 275

(C) The administrative cost per claim, which reports the 276 277 average annual administrative expense a state fund employer pays to process a claim. The administrative cost per claim is 278 calculated by dividing an employer's total amount of 279 administrative expenses incurred during the preceding twelve 280 months by the total number of claims the employer processed. 281

(D) The direct loss ratio, which measures the relationship 282 between an employer's revenues and workers' compensation benefits 283 paid to an injured worker during the preceding twelve months; 284

(E) The rate of return generated by investments of the Bureau 285 286 of Workers' Compensation;

(F) The customer service index, which accounts for various 287 statistical measures reflecting the bureau's customer service 288 levels;

(G) The Health Partnership Program performance index, which 290 measures the effectiveness of managed care organizations working 291 for the bureau and reflects the quality of care, customer 292 satisfaction, and cost of care provided by the managed care 293 organizations; 294

(H) The rate of injury in the state per 1,000 workers;

289

(I) The average and median number of days the bureau takes to 296 adjudicate an injured worker's medical bill fee; 297

(J) The return-to-work rate of state fund employers' injured 298 workers who do not receive workers' compensation benefits for at 299 least ninety days following their injury, which reports the number 300 of injured workers who returned to work as a percentage of total 301 injuries; 302

(K) The average number of days it takes for an employer or 303 injured worker to report an injury to the bureau, which is 304 calculated by taking the average number of days between the date 305 of injury and the date the claim was filed with the bureau; 306

(L) The percentage of indemnity claims adjudicated by the 307 bureau within fourteen days of the injury. 308

Section 5. All items in this section are appropriated out of 309 any moneys in the state treasury to the credit of the designated 310 fund. For all appropriations made in this act, those in the first 311 column are for fiscal year 2002, and those in the second column 312 are for fiscal year 2003. 313

		BWC BUREAU OF WORKER	rs '	COMPENSATION			314			
FND	ALI	ALI TITLE		FY 2002		FY 2003	315			
Workers' Compensation Fund Group 31										
023	855-401	William Green Lease	\$	17,570,700	\$	18,174,700	317			
		Payments to OBA								
023	855-407	Claims, Risk & Medical	\$	133,919,528	\$	141,539,537	318			
		Management								
023	855-408	Fraud Prevention	\$	10,698,376	\$	11,713,797	319			
023	855-409	Administrative	\$	117,121,527	\$	119,884,053	320			
		Services								
023	855-410	Attorney General	\$	4,078,273	\$	4,314,644	321			
		Payments								
4Y6	855-612	J.L. Camera Center	\$	500,000	\$	0	322			

Operating

822 855-606	Coal Workers' Fund	\$	86,465	\$ 91,894	323
823 855-608	Marine Industry	\$	50,755	\$ 53,952	324
825 855-605	Disabled Workers	\$	668,280	\$ 693,764	325
	Relief Fund				
826 855-609	Safety & Hygiene	\$	18,888,294	\$ 20,130,820	326
	Operating				
TOTAL WCF Workers' Compensation					327
Fund Group			303,582,198	\$ 316,597,161	328
TOTAL ALL BUDGET FUND GROUPS			303,582,198	\$ 316,597,161	329

WILLIAM GREEN LEASE PAYMENTS

The foregoing appropriation item 855-401, William Green Lease 331 Payments to OBA, shall be used for lease payments to the Ohio 332 Building Authority, and these appropriations shall be used to meet 333 all payments at the times they are required to be made during the 334 period from July 1, 2001, to June 30, 2003, by the Bureau of 335 Workers' Compensation to the Ohio Building Authority pursuant to 336 leases and agreements made under Chapter 152. of the Revised Code 337 and Section 6 of Am. Sub. H.B. 743 of the 118th General Assembly. 338 Of the amounts received in Fund 023, appropriation item 855-401, 339 up to \$35,745,400 shall be restricted for lease rental payments to 340 the Ohio Building Authority. If it is determined that additional 341 appropriations are necessary for such purpose, such amounts are 342 hereby appropriated. 343

Notwithstanding any other provision of law to the contrary, 344 all tenants of the William Green Building not funded by the 345 Workers' Compensation Fund (Fund 023) shall pay their fair share 346 of the costs of lease payments to the Workers' Compensation Fund 347 (Fund 023) by intrastate transfer voucher. 348

WORKERS' COMPENSATION FRAUD UNIT

The Workers' Compensation Section Fund (Fund 195) shall 350 receive payments from the Bureau of Workers' Compensation at the 351

330

beginning of each quarter of each fiscal year to fund expenses of the Workers' Compensation Fraud Unit of the Attorney General's Office. Of the foregoing appropriation item 855-410, Attorney General Payments, \$751,694 in fiscal year 2002 and \$773,151 in fiscal year 2003 shall be used to provide these payments. 352 353 354 355 356

CAMERA CENTER

The Camera Center Fund (Fund 4Y6) created in division (F) of 358 section 4121.62 of the Revised Code shall receive revenues raised 359 by the fees the Camera Center charges for its services and rent 360 paid by tenants of the Center's facilities. The foregoing 361 appropriation item 855-612, J.L. Camera Center Operating, shall be 362 used for expenses related to the closing of the center. On January 363 1, 2002, or as soon thereafter as possible, the Director of Budget 364 and Management shall transfer the cash balance in the Camera 365 Center Fund (Fund 4Y6) to the Administrative Fund (Fund 023). The 366 director shall cancel any existing encumbrances against 367 appropriation items 855-611, J.L. Camera Center Rent, and 855-612, 368 369 J.L. Camera Center Operating, and reestablish them against appropriation item 855-409, Administrative Services (Fund 023). 370 These amounts are hereby appropriated. 371

The Bureau of Workers' Compensation shall not consider372appropriations made to the Camera Center Fund (Fund 4Y6) when373establishing administrative cost rates.374

SAFETY AND HYGIENE

Notwithstanding section 4121.37 of the Revised Code, the376Administrator of Workers' Compensation shall transfer moneys from377the State Insurance Fund so that appropriation item 855-609,378Safety and Hygiene Operating, is provided \$18,888,294 in fiscal379year 2002 and \$20,130,820 in fiscal year 2003.380

OCCUPATIONAL SAFETY LOAN FUND

Not later than January 1, 2002, the Administrator of Workers' 382

357

375

Compensation shall transfer the cash balance in the Occupational383Safety Loan Fund established in former section 4121.48 of the384Revised Code to the Safety and Hygiene Fund (Fund 826) created in385section 4121.37 of the Revised Code.386

BALANCES

Notwithstanding any provision of law to the contrary, the 388 Director of Budget and Management shall make any transfers of cash 389 balances between funds made necessary by the creation of new funds 390 or the consolidation of funds as authorized by the General 391 Assembly. Within the first five days after the effective date of 392 this section, the administering agency head shall certify to the 393 director an estimate of the amount of the cash balance to be 394 transferred to the receiving fund. The director may transfer the 395 estimated amount when needed to make payments. Within thirty days 396 after the effective date of this section, the administering agency 397 head shall certify the final amount to the director. The director 398 shall transfer the difference between any estimated amount 399 previously transferred and such certified final amount. 400

To implement funding changes as described above pertaining to 401 prior year encumbrance balances and commensurate appropriation 402 authority, in fiscal year 2002 the Director of Budget and 403 Management may cancel encumbrances outstanding on June 30, 2001, 404 and reestablish such prior year encumbrances or parts of 405 encumbrances as needed in fiscal year 2002 in the appropriate fund 406 or appropriation item as authorized in this act for the same 407 purpose and to the same vendor. As determined by the director, the 408 appropriation authority necessary to reestablish such prior year 409 encumbrances in fiscal year 2000 in a different fund or 410 appropriation item within an agency or between agencies is 411 authorized. The director shall reduce each prior year's 412 appropriation authority by the amount of the encumbrances canceled 413 in their respective funds and appropriation items. 414

Page 14

VOCATIONAL REHABILITATION

The Bureau of Workers' Compensation and the Rehabilitation 416 Services Commission shall enter into an interagency agreement for 417 the provision of vocational rehabilitation services and staff to 418 mutually eligible clients. The bureau shall provide \$554,033 in 419 fiscal year 2002 and \$570,654 in fiscal year 2003 from the State 420 421 Insurance Fund to fund vocational rehabilitation services and staff in accordance with the interagency agreement. 422

FUND BALANCE

Any unencumbered cash balance in excess of \$45,000,000 in the 424 Workers' Compensation Fund (Fund 023) on the thirtieth day of June 425 of each fiscal year shall be used to reduce the administrative 426 cost rate charged to employers to cover appropriations for Bureau 427 of Workers' Compensation and Industrial Commission operations. 428

Section 6. LAW GENERALLY APPLICABLE TO APPROPRIATIONS

Law contained in the main operating appropriations act of the 430 124th General Assembly that applies generally to the 431 appropriations made in that act also applies generally to the 432 appropriations made in this act. 433

section 7. The codified sections of law amended in this act, 434 and the items of law of which the codified sections of law amended 435 in this act are composed, are subject to the referendum. 436 Therefore, under Ohio Constitution, Article II, Section 1c and 437 section 1.471 of the Revised Code, the codified sections of law 438 amended by this act, and the items of law of which the codified 439 sections of law as amended by this act are composed, take effect 440 on the ninety-first day after this act is filed with the Secretary 441 of State. If, however, a referendum petition is filed against any 442 such codified section of law as amended by this act, or against 443 any item of law of which any such codified section of law as 444

415

429

amended by this act is composed, the codified section of law as 445 amended, or item of law, unless rejected at the referendum, takes 446 effect at the earliest time permitted by law. 447

section 8. The repeal by this act of a codified section of 448 law is subject to the referendum. Therefore, under Ohio 449 Constitution, Article II, Section 1c and section 1.471 of the 450 Revised Code, the repeal takes effect on the ninety-first day 451 after this act is filed with the Secretary of State. If, however, 452 a referendum petition is filed against the repeal, the repeal, 453 unless rejected at the referendum, takes effect at the earliest 454 time permitted by law. 455

section 9. Section 4121.62 of the Revised Code, as amended by 456 this act, is subject to the referendum and takes effect January 1, 457 2002. 458

This section is subject to the referendum, together with 459 section 4121.62 of the Revised Code as amended by this act. 460

Section 10. The uncodified sections of law enacted in this 461 act, and the items of law of which the uncodified sections of law 462 enacted in this act are composed, are not subject to the 463 referendum. Therefore, under Ohio Constitution, Article II, 464 Section 1d and section 1.471 of the Revised Code, the uncodified 465 sections of law enacted in this act, and the items of law of which 466 the uncodified sections of law enacted in this act are composed, 467 go into immediate effect when this act becomes law. 468

Section 11. If the amendment in this act of a codified 469 section of law is subject to the referendum, the corresponding 470 indications in the amending and existing repeal clauses commanding 471 the amendment also are subject to the referendum, along with the 472

amendment.

Section 12. An item, other than an amending or repealing474clause, that composes the whole or part of an uncodified section475contained in this act has no effect after June 30, 2003, unless476its context clearly indicates otherwise.477

Section 13. If any item of law that constitutes the whole or 478 part of a codified or uncodified section of law contained in this 479 act, or if any application of any item of law that constitutes the 480 whole or part of a codified or uncodified section of law contained 481 in this act, is held invalid, the invalidity does not affect other 482 items of law or applications of items of law that can be given 483 effect without the invalid item of law or application. To this 484 end, the items of law of which the codified and uncodified 485 sections contained in this act are composed, and their 486 applications, are independent and severable. 487