

■ CHAUFFEURS SOCIAL SECURITY LAW

TERMS:

Contributions — Every employer who hires any agricultural worker or other person who operates a motor vehicle in connection with the job, must withhold 50 cents each week from the worker's pay as dues to the Chauffeurs Social Security fund. Within 60 days after the end of each 3-month period during the year, the employer must send all such withheld amounts to the administering agency, along with the employer's share of contributions, which is set at 30 cents a week.

Benefits — Workers who have paid dues to the Chauffeurs Social Security fund for the minimum prescribed number of weeks and meet other eligibility requirements may qualify for up to 30 weeks of cash benefits for illness, a one-time payment for permanent and total disability, a one-time bonus upon voluntary retirement, and cash benefits in the event of the worker's death or the death of the worker's spouse or child.

Reinstatement to Employment — In the case of a worker's illness or non-permanent disability for which benefits are payable under these provisions, the employer is generally obligated to reinstate the worker within 30 days after he or she is discharged from treatment, provided that (1) the job still exists when the worker requests reinstatement, (2) the worker is mentally and physically able to perform the job, and (3) the request is made no later than one year after the onset of the disability.

ENFORCEMENT: *Temporary Disability Benefits Program, Bureau of Benefits for Chauffeurs and Persons with Non-Occupational Disability, Puerto Rico Department of Labor and Human Resources, Hato Rey, Puerto Rico 00918 (787-625-7900).* Application for benefits may be made at any local Chauffeurs Social Security office.

If an employer fails to comply when a worker requests reinstatement to the job after a period of disability ends, the worker may take action in civil court to recover the wages he or she would have received if reinstated, as well as monetary damages.