

■ **TEMPORARY DISABILITY BENEFIT ACT**

TERMS: Except for motor vehicle drivers (who are covered by the law discussed in the next summary), agricultural workers who are disabled by an injury or illness not connected with employment are generally eligible for disability benefits if they have earned at least \$150 over a certain one-year reference period prior to applying for benefits.

Weekly disability payments for workers with earnings primarily in agriculture currently range from \$12 to \$55, depending on actual earnings during the reference period. When an injury not connected with employment results in loss of sight, loss of an arm or leg, loss of part of a hand or foot, or death, the worker or the worker's dependents may also be entitled to a one-time payment for dismemberment or death.

In contrast with other industries, agricultural employers and employees are not required to pay contributions to the disability benefit fund to help finance the program. Benefits for farmworkers are paid from the treasury of Puerto Rico.

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).* Disability claims may be filed at any local Employment Security office.