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All You Wanted To Know About Asbestos Legislation

By Kirsten Hawkins

It is necessary for all the Americans to have an understanding of Asbestos legislation. Asbestos

legislation refers to the US government's attitude towards the asbestos Victims. Asbestos was widely used in the industry for a considerable amount of time. However, asbestos is harmful contaminant and causes harmful diseases such as asbestosis and a fatal cancer known as mesothelioma. It is important for our government to understand the plight of Asbestos victims, and streamline asbestos legislation for providing due compensation to asbestos victims.

Bail out bill:

In spite of the serious nature of Asbestos health hazards, government is taking it very lightly. The last version of the bail out bill of the Asbestos Legislation has provisions that inadequately compensate asbestos victims. The amount proposed in the proposed legislation is not sufficient to take into account the plight of millions of workers, their dependents, reduced life expectancy, and massive medical bills. The companies that have been using Asbestos, in spite of being aware of its ill effects, should be asked to compensate for the lives and health of hapless asbestos workers.

Over the next 20 years, chances are that every year more than 10,000 Americans will die of Asbestos related disease. More than 2,500 Americans are being diagnosed for mesothelioma each year. In spite of these alarming figures, the federal government has not invested in early detection and cure of these diseases. This Asbestos legislation ignores the vital need of funds required for compensation to asbestos victims and research for asbestos related disease. To add to the woes of asbestos victims, mesothelioma patients as termed as `beyond help'.

This proposed Asbestos legislation puts the law obeying companies at a disadvantage. According to the proposed bill, the companies responsible for causing asbestos exposure are going Scott free. A public opinion drive is going on wherein all the persons are requested to write to the senators to put some more sense in the forthcoming asbestos bill. This is important because the people who have been wronged should get their due compensation. Moreover, asbestos legislation should contain provisions for stringent measures to curb the use of this harmful contaminant.

Kirsten Hawkins is a asbestos and mesothelioma specialist from Nashville, TN. Visit

<http://www.asbestosblog.org/>

for information on asbestos reform, mesothelioma lawsuit news, and

more.

The Proposed Asbestos Bill – A Bagful Of Controversies

By Kirsten Hawkins

The proposed asbestos bill seeks to compensate asbestos exposure victims by setting up a trust fund, grant immunity to businesses by out of court system and resolve pending cases. The asbestos bill is expected to cover past cases and clear the courts.

However, at a gathering of premier asbestos specialists in September 2004, no one believed that the asbestos epidemic was over. Many new cases are expected, as the symptoms are slow to develop and this is the reason why many organizations are raising voices against the validity and effectiveness of the proposed asbestos bill. Research has proved that inhalation of asbestos, a common industrial material, has caused serious diseases including asbestosis and mesothelioma – a malignant cancer.

What Is The Asbestos Bill? Since the mid-1970s, The United States Congress is attempting to pass the Asbestos Bill to ensure adequate compensation to victims of asbestos exposure. Asbestos related diseases were first highlighted during the passage of the Black Lung Bill. In 1999, the Supreme Court left it to the Congress to pass the asbestos bill ensuring the rights of asbestos exposure victims.

Milestones in Asbestos Bill Here are some milestones in the passage of asbestos bill.

1999– The Fairness in Asbestos Compensation Act was the Asbestos Bill proposed to form a government body responsible for resolution of asbestos lawsuits out of the court system.

2000– The Asbestos Compensation Act–this asbestos bill attempted to establish an Office of Asbestos Compensation and a Compensation Fund for asbestos victims based on medical criteria. This asbestos bill was sponsored by Sen. Orin Hatch. 2003– The Asbestos Claims Criteria and Compensation Act failed to become a law when the organizations criticized it as being limited to cover the compensation requirements of asbestos victims.

2004– The Fairness in Asbestos Injury Resolution Act proposed a creation of \$124 billion trust fund. This asbestos bill also criticized as being limited.

What holds up the Asbestos Bill? Two major obstacles holding up the Asbestos Bill are the size of the trust fund and the criteria defining the victims who can have access to the fund. The people opposing this asbestos bills believe that the trust fund would be inadequate to provide adequate compensation to the asbestos victims. Secondly they believe that the proposed asbestos bill deprive the asbestos

victims of their natural right to file lawsuits for compensation.

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