

JOE MANCHIN III
GOVERNOR

DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE

VIRGIL T. HELTON
CABINET SECRETARY

OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

STATE CAPITOL
CHARLESTON, WEST VIRGINIA

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**WEST VIRGINIA VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT
WORKERS' COMPENSATION GROUP MEMBERS ANNOUNCED**

CHARLESTON, W.V. - West Virginia Department of Revenue Secretary Virgil T. Helton, under the direction of Gov. Joe Manchin, today announced the formation of the West Virginia Volunteer Fire Department (VFD) Workers' Compensation Group.

Upon securing temporary relief from workers' compensation premium increases from BrickStreet Insurance, which VFDs anticipated to double effective July 1, 2010, Gov. Manchin called upon Secretary Helton to form a group of stakeholders to provide a permanent solution.

"Our VFDs need long-term help. They are instrumental in keeping our communities safe and well protected," said Manchin. "We now need to return the favor and assist these brave men and women so they can continue to operate in our communities."

Secretary Helton, chair of the West Virginia Volunteer Fire Department Workers' Compensation Group, has invited the following individuals to participate in the group:

Senator Walt Helmick	West Virginia State Senate
Delegate Harry Keith White	West Virginia House of Delegates
Paula Smith	WV State Firemen's Association
Sam Love	WV State Firemen's Association
Sterling Lewis	WV State Fire Marshal

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Jane Cline	Commissioner, WV Offices of the Insurance Commissioner
Bill Kenny	Deputy Commissioner, WV Offices of the Insurance Commissioner
Mary Jane Pickens	General Counsel, WV Offices of the Insurance Commissioner
Christine Morris	General Counsel, WV Department of Military Affairs and Public Safety
Lisa Dooley	WV Municipal League
Patti Hamilton	WV Association of Counties
Vivian Parsons	WV County Commissioners' Association
Bob Sullivan	WV State Fire Commission

"I look forward to working with these individuals as we develop a solution for the VFDs and to provide them with ongoing relief from high workers' compensation premiums for years to come," said Secretary Helton.

The first meeting for the group will be July 8 in the Governor's Cabinet and Conference Room at the state Capitol.

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