

85.1 Inapplicability of chapter.

Except as provided in [subsection 6](#) of [this section](#), [this chapter](#) does not apply to:

1. Any employee engaged in any type of service in or about a private dwelling except that after July 1, 1997, [this chapter](#) shall apply to such persons who earn one thousand five hundred dollars or more from such employer for whom employed at the time of the injury during the twelve consecutive months prior to the injury, provided the employee is not a regular member of the household. For purposes of [this subsection](#), “*member of the household*” is defined to be the spouse of the employer or relatives of either the employer or spouse residing on the premises of the employer.

2. Persons whose employment is purely casual and not for the purpose of the employer’s trade or business, except that after July 1, 1997, [this chapter](#) shall apply to such employees who earn one thousand five hundred dollars or more from such employer for whom employed at the time of the injury during the twelve consecutive months prior to the injury.

3. Persons engaged in agriculture, insofar as injuries incurred by employees while engaged in agricultural pursuits or any operations immediately connected therewith whether on or off the premises of the employer, except:

a. [This chapter](#) applies to persons not specifically exempted by paragraph “b” of [this subsection](#) if at the time of injury the person is employed by an employer whose total cash payroll to one or more persons other than those exempted by paragraph “b” of [this subsection](#) amounted to two thousand five hundred dollars or more during the preceding calendar year.

b. The following persons or employees or groups of employees are specifically included within the exemption from coverage of [this chapter](#) provided by [this subsection](#):

(1) The spouse of the employer, parents, brothers, sisters, children, and stepchildren of either the employer or the spouse of the employer, and the spouses of the brothers, sisters, children, and stepchildren of either the employer or the spouse of the employer.

(2) The spouse of a partner of a partnership, the parents, brothers, sisters, children, and stepchildren of either a partner or the spouse of a partner, and the spouses of the brothers, sisters, children, and stepchildren of either a partner or the spouse of a partner, who are employed by the partnership and actually engaged in agricultural pursuits or operations immediately connected with the agricultural pursuits either on or off the premises of the partnership. For the purpose of this subparagraph, “*partnership*” includes partnerships, limited partnerships, and joint ventures.

(3) Officers of a family farm corporation or members of a limited liability company, spouses of the officers or members, the parents, brothers, sisters, children, and stepchildren of either the officers or members, or the spouses of the officers or members, and the spouses of the brothers, sisters, children, and stepchildren of either the officers or members, or the spouses of the officers or members who are employed by the corporation or limited liability company, the primary purpose of which, although not necessarily the stated purpose, is farming or ownership of agricultural land, and who are actually engaged in agricultural pursuits or operations immediately connected with the agricultural pursuits either on or off the premises of the corporation or limited liability company.

(4) A person engaged in agriculture as an owner of agricultural land, as a farm operator, or as a person engaged in agriculture who is exempt from coverage under [this chapter](#) by [subsection 3](#), paragraph “b”, subparagraph (1), (2), or (3), while exchanging labor with another owner of agricultural land, farm operator, or person engaged in agriculture who is exempt from coverage under [this chapter](#) by [subsection 3](#), paragraph “b”, subparagraph (1), (2), or (3), for the mutual benefit of all such persons.

4. Persons entitled to benefits pursuant to [chapters 410](#) and [411](#).

5. The president, vice president, secretary, and treasurer of a corporation other than a family farm corporation, not to exceed four officers per corporation, if such an officer knowingly and voluntarily rejects workers’ compensation coverage pursuant to [section 87.22](#).

6. Employers may with respect to an employee or a classification of employees exempt from coverage provided by [this chapter](#) pursuant to [subsection 1, 2, or 3](#), other than the

employee or classification of employees with respect to whom a rule of liability or a method of compensation is established by the Congress of the United States, assume a liability for compensation imposed upon employers by [this chapter](#), for the benefit of employees within the coverage of [this chapter](#), by the purchase of valid workers' compensation insurance that does not specifically exclude the employee or classification of employees. The purchase of and acceptance by an employer of valid workers' compensation insurance applicable to the employee or classification of employees constitutes an assumption by the employer of liability without any further act on the part of the employer, but only with respect to the employee or classification of employees as are within the coverage of the workers' compensation insurance contract and only for the time period in which the insurance contract is in force. Upon an election of such coverage, the employee or classification of employees shall accept compensation in the manner provided by [this chapter](#) and the employer shall be relieved from any other liability for recovery of damage, or other compensation for injury.

[S13, §2477-m; C24, 27, 31, 35, 39, §1361; C46, 50, 54, 58, 62, 66, 71, 73, 75, 77, 79, 81, §85.1; 82 Acts, ch 1161, §1, 2, ch 1221, §1]

83 Acts, ch 36, §1, 2, 8; 84 Acts, ch 1067, §14; 96 Acts, ch 1059, §1; 97 Acts, ch 43, §1, 2; 2007 Acts, ch 128, §1; 2022 Acts, ch 1021, §26

Referred to in §85.2, 85.61, 85.62, 87.21

Subsection 3, paragraph b, subparagraph (2) amended