

Industrial Accident Board, Supplies, etc. for; Industrial Administration Fund, Payments From. Supplies, etc., Payment for.

Necessary office furniture, stationery and other supplies, including rental of necessary temporary quarters for purpose of holding sessions of the Industrial Accident Board, must be paid for from the Industrial Administration Fund upon claims properly audited, allowed and approved.

May 10, 1915.

Hon. A. E. Spriggs,
Chairman Industrial Accident Board,
Helena, Montana.

Dear Sir:

I am in receipt of your letter of the 7th instant, setting forth that under the Workman's Compensation Law, which provides that the Industrial Accident Board shall keep its principal office in the State Capitol, and shall be provided with suitable rooms, necessary office furniture, stationery and other supplies, the question arises as to whether or not it is incumbent upon the Board to pay for those quarters, furniture, stationery and supplies out of the Industrial Administration Fund, upon which question you desire an official opinion.

You are advised that Section 23 (a) of the Act provides for an appropriation to be known as the "Industrial Administration Fund," out of which the salaries, traveling and office expenses of the Board shall be paid, and all other expenses incident to the administration of the Act. Section 2 (h) provides the Board shall keep its principal office in the Capitol of the State, and shall be provided with suitable rooms, necessary office furniture, stationery and other supplies, and for the purpose of holding sessions in other places, the Board shall have power to rent temporary quarters, and Section 2 (m) provides that all expenses incurred by the Board, pursuant to the provisions of the Act, shall be paid from the Industrial Administration Fund, after being approved by Board upon claims therefor to be audited and approved by the State Board of Examiners. These are the only statutory provisions shedding light upon the subject, and a careful reading of the provisions referred to leads to but one conclusion, which is that necessary office furniture, stationery and other supplies must be paid for from the Industrial Administration Fund, upon claims approved by the Board after the same have been audited and passed upon favorably by the State Board of Examiners, and in so far as permanent quarters in the Capitol of the State are concerned, no rent may be exacted for the same, but if it becomes necessary to rent temporary quarters in other places for the purpose of holding sessions, the charge therefor would be against the Industrial Administration Fund.

Yours very truly,

D. M. KELLY,

Attorney General.