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referee, and may examine the testimony taken before such referee, and if it deem proper may hear other evidence, and may substitute for the findings of the referee such findings of fact as the evidence taken before the referee and the board, as hereinbefore provided, may, in the judgment of the board, require, and may make such disallowance or award of compensation or other order as the facts so founded by it may require.

Section 424. Whenever an appeal shall be based upon an alleged error of law, it shall be the duty of the board to grant a hearing thereon. The board shall fix a time and place of such hearing, and shall serve notice thereof on all parties in interest.

As soon as may be after such hearing, the board shall either sustain or reverse the referee's award or disallowance of compensation, or make such modification thereof as it shall deem proper.

Section 425. Whenever an appeal shall be taken on the ground that the referee's award or disallowance of compensation was unwarranted by the evidence, or because of fraud, coercion, or other improper conduct by any party in interest, the board may, in its discretion, grant a hearing de novo before the board or one or more of its members, or assign the petition for rehearing to any referee designated by it, or sustain the referee's award or disallowance of compensation. If the board shall grant a hearing de novo, it shall fix a time and place therefor and notify all parties in interest.

As soon as may be after any hearing de novo by the board, it shall in writing state its findings of fact, and award or disallow compensation in accordance with the provisions of this act.

*Section 426. The board, upon petition of any party and upon cause shown, at any time before the court of common pleas of any county of this Commonwealth, other than Allegheny County, and in Allegheny County before the county court of Allegheny County, to which an appeal has been taken under the provisions of section four hundred and twenty-seven of this article, shall have taken final action thereon, may grant a rehearing of any petition upon which the board has made an award or disallowance of compensation or other order or ruling, or upon which the board has sustained or reversed any action of a referee; but such rehearing shall not be granted more than eighteen months after the board has made such award, disallowance, or order or ruling, or has sustained or reversed any action of the referee. If the board shall grant a rehearing of any petition from the board's action on which an appeal has been taken to and is pending in the court of common pleas or in the county court of Allegheny County, as the case may be, under the provisions of section four hundred and twenty-seven of this article, the board shall file in such court a certified copy of its order granting such rehearing, and it shall thereupon be the duty of such court to cause the record of the case to be remitted to the board: Provided, however, That nothing contained in this section shall limit or restrict the right of the board, or a referee designated by the board, to review, modify, set aside, reinstate, suspend, or terminate, an original or supplemental

* As amended by Act No. 316, Laws of 1943; and by Act No. 355, Laws of 1955, effective March 29, 1956.