

## Department of Planning and Budget 2001 Fiscal Impact Statement

1. **Bill Number** HB2525

|                        |  |                                     |                                    |
|------------------------|--|-------------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| <b>House of Origin</b> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Introduced | <input type="checkbox"/> Substitute | <input type="checkbox"/> Engrossed |
| <b>Second House</b>    | <input type="checkbox"/> In Committee          | <input type="checkbox"/> Substitute | <input type="checkbox"/> Enrolled  |

2. **Patron** Phillips

3. **Committee** Labor and Commerce

4. **Title** Workers' compensation; disability from pneumoconiosis.

5. **Summary/Purpose:**

This bill requires that the members of any panel or committee required to interpret or classify a chest roentgenogram for purposes of diagnosing a coal worker's pneumoconiosis shall be board-certified or board-eligible pulmonologists.

6. **Fiscal Impact:** INDETERMINATE

7. **Budget amendment necessary:** No

8. **Fiscal implications:** Use of Board certified pulmonologists will increase the cost of interpreting and/or classify a chest roentgenogram. Currently the Virginia Workers Compensation Commission is required to use individuals that have a "B-reader" status. Board certified pulmonologists have a higher level of training than B-readers. Therefore, the use of these individuals would require a higher fee per reading. There are however an unknown number of potential pneumoconiosis cases therefore, the impact of the increased cost that would result from this bill is unknown.

The Commonwealth's workers compensation program for state employees administered by the Department of Human Resource Management, indicates that no impact is expected on its program as a result of this bill. The state workers compensation program has never had a pneumoconiosis claim and does not expect to in the future.

9. **Specific agency or political subdivisions affected:**

The Virginia Workers Compensation Commission

10. **Technical amendment necessary:** No

11. **Other comments:** None

**Date:** 01/19/01 jdh

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cc: Secretary of Administration

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