

Department of Planning and Budget

2001 Fiscal Impact Statement

1. Bill Number HB50

House of Origin ☐ Introduced ☐ Substitute ☐ Engrossed
Second House ☐ In Committee ☐ Substitute ☒ Enrolled

2. Patron Black

3. Committee Passed Both Houses

4. Title Workers' compensation; presumption of occupation disease for police officers employed by the Metropolitan Washington Airports Authority

5. Summary/Purpose:

The purpose of this legislation is to create a presumption that hypertension or other heart disease resulting in the death or the total or partial disability of a police officer employed by the Metropolitan Washington Airports Authority is an occupational disease, and is, therefore, a workers' compensation eligible event. Similar presumptions have been established in the past for firefighters, police officers, sheriffs, sheriffs' deputies, marine patrol officers, full-time game wardens, and the Department of Emergency Management's hazardous materials officers. An amendment adopted in the engrossed version of this bill renders this act in effect only for as long as the Metropolitan Washington Airports Authority voluntarily wishes to subject itself to it.

6. Fiscal Impact: No. This legislation has no fiscal impact upon the Commonwealth. The Metropolitan Washington Airports Authority is an independent entity created by Chapter 598, 1985 Act of Assembly, and the District of Columbia Regional Airports Authority Act, passed by Congress in 1985.

7. Budget amendment necessary: No.

8. Fiscal implications: Although there was very little publicly available information about the number of police officers employed by the Metropolitan Washington Airports Authority or its current workers' compensation practices, a potential guide to the Authority's cost of complying with this legislation may be found in information collected by the Virginia Workers' Compensation Program, a division of the Department of Human Resource Management, regarding the cost of serious hypertension-related health events reported by the Department of State Police's troopers. According to this information, the average cost of a serious hypertension-related health event for a State Police trooper is \$100,000. In addition, approximately one percent of that agency's officers will make hypertension-related workers' compensation claims each year. However, since the Metropolitan Washington Airports Authority is only bound by these provisions for as long as it so wishes to be bound by them, that entity could reject this legislation. If this were to happen, the Authority would experience no fiscal implications from this bill's passage.

9. Specific agency or political subdivisions affected: This proposal affects only the Metropolitan Washington Airports Authority, which is an independent political entity separate from the Commonwealth or its political subdivisions.

10. Technical amendment necessary: No.

11. Other comments: None.

Date: 03/20/02/PXV

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cc: Secretary of Administration