

Revised
Department of Planning and Budget
2004 Fiscal Impact Statement

1. Bill Number HB957

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

2. Patron Barlow

3. Committee Commerce and Labor

4. Title Workers' compensation; definition of injury.

5. Summary/Purpose: Provides that "injury" for volunteer or salaried firefighters includes travel to or from their place of employment for the purposes of beginning or ceasing work.

6. Fiscal Impact Estimates are: Unknown

7. Budget amendment necessary: No

8. Fiscal implications:

Agency Impact: This bill will have minimal fiscal impact on the Workers' Compensation Commission (WCC), as its administration will be accomplished with existing staff and resources.

The state agency most likely to be affected by this legislation is the Department of Forestry, based on DHRM Office of Workers' Compensation historical claims data. Because auto accidents occurring on the way to or from work are rarely reported (because Forestry knows there is no coverage), it is impossible for DHRM Office of Workers' Compensation to determine the exact impact to Forestry's premiums or annual Workers' Compensation Program payments. However, if one firefighter is injured severely each year, the annual cost could be several hundred thousand dollars since the state workers' compensation rates are experienced based.

System Impact: Other than state employees, it is anticipated that this bill will have some fiscal impact on the workers' compensation system because it increases coverage under the Act by expanding the definition of a covered "injury" in the limited circumstances specified. It is anticipated that this change will impact a small number of cases; however, the precise extent of the impact cannot be calculated at this point.

9. Specific agency or political subdivisions affected: Department of Human Resource Management, Department of Forestry, Workers' Compensation Commission, local governments

10. Technical amendment necessary: No

11. Other comments: None

Date: 1/22/04 mtb

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cc: Secretary of Administration