

Revised
Department of Planning and Budget
2004 Fiscal Impact Statement

1. Bill Number SB547

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

2. Patron Puckett

3. Committee Commerce and Labor

4. Title Workers' compensation; AmeriCorps members.

5. Summary/Purpose:

Provides that members of AmeriCorps are employees for the purposes of receiving workers' compensation to reimburse medical costs from covered injuries, but shall not be eligible to receive weekly compensation.

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 Department of Social Services, Virginia Commission for National and Community Service (DSS) has 54 full and part-time AmeriCorps members assigned in 28 sites throughout the Commonwealth. Twenty-two members are in local departments of social services, four in community action agencies, and two in central Department of Social Services. These stipend volunteers are at the same risk of injury as any other employee. In many cases they travel in state and local government vehicles to perform their services.

The DHRM Workers' Compensation Program would provide coverage to those working for state agencies if this legislation is passed. Any Corps members that are serving in local or community organizations would not be covered by the DHRM plan, but would be provided coverage by the local employer under their workers' compensation policy.

The DHRM Workers' Compensation Program reports that the AmeriCorp program reported one claim this year. It was denied because the employee did not meet the definition of employee currently in place under the Workers' Compensation Act. First year premium cost to DSS for this coverage could be as low as \$500. If there is a significant workplace accident during that year, future years premiums would be impacted and could be increased by several thousand dollars.

System Impact: 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 "Employee" 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: Workers' Compensation Commission (WCC), local governments

10. Technical amendment necessary: No

11. Other comments: None

Date: Workers' Compensation Commission (WCC)

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cc: Secretary of Administration