

## Department of Planning and Budget 2013 Fiscal Impact Statement

**1. Bill Number:** SB896

<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:** Reeves

**3. Committee:** Commerce and Labor

**4. Title:** Workers' compensation; off-premises injuries incurred by public safety employees

**5. Summary:** Eliminates, with respect to off-premises injuries incurred by public safety employees, the condition for eligibility for workers' compensation benefits that the nature of an employee's employment exposed the employee to a particular risk of injury that is usually not faced by a member of the public. The measure would eliminate an employer's defense that such an injury was an act of God not covered by the Workers' Compensation Act because the risk of injury was no greater for the employee than for members of the public.

**6. Budget Amendment Necessary:** No.

**7. Fiscal Impact Estimates:** Indeterminate.

**8. Fiscal Implications:** State Employee Workers' Compensation Services provides claims handling for state employed public safety officers including State Police Officers and many others. While it is not possible to project the ultimate cost if this bill is enacted, the potential for substantially increased claim costs for the program are anticipated due to the large number of employees to be afforded this broadened benefit. Because the Commonwealth has adopted experience-based premiums for agencies covered by State Employee Workers' Compensation Services, agencies that experience increased costs as a result of this legislation would be expected to bear the cost of increased premiums to include both general fund and nongeneral fund amounts.

**9. Specific Agency or Political Subdivisions Affected:** Various agencies employing law enforcement personnel.

**10. Technical Amendment Necessary:** No.

**11. Other Comments:** N/A

**Date:** 1/13/12