

Department of Planning and Budget

2013 Fiscal Impact Statement

1. Bill Number: HB1347

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

2. Patron: Wright

3. Committee: Commerce and Labor

4. Title: Workers' compensation; injuries to public safety officers

5. Summary: Provides that an injury incurred by a public safety officer that occurs in the course of his employment at a location that is off the premises his regular premises of employment shall be deemed to have arisen out of employment if the injury would not have occurred but for the fact that the conditions and obligations of his employment placed the public safety officer at the location where the injury was incurred. Such an employee shall not be required to prove (i) that the nature of his employment exposed him to a special, additional, peculiar, or particular risk of injury to which a member of the public is not generally subject or (ii) a causal connection between the conditions under which his employment was required to be performed and the resulting injury. The measure would eliminate an employer's defense that such an injury was an act of God not covered by the Virginia Workers' Compensation Act. The measure would not apply to injuries incurred prior to July 1, 2013..

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: 1/14/12