

Department of Planning and Budget 2013 Fiscal Impact Statement

1. **Bill Number:** SB1126

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

2. **Patron:** Norment

3. **Committee:** Commerce and Labor

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

5. **Summary:** Provides that a public safety employee who is injured in the course of his employment is not required to prove 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. The measure further provides that (i) an injured public safety employee is not required to prove a causal connection between the conditions under which his employment was required to be performed and the resulting injury and (ii) the characterization of the causation of such an injury as an act of God shall not be a defense to a claim for compensation under this title.

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