

## Department of Planning and Budget 2013 Fiscal Impact Statement

**1. Bill Number:** SB704

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

**2. Patron:** Puckett

**3. Committee:** Commerce and Labor

**4. Title:** Workers' compensation; disease presumption, corrections officers

**5. Summary:** Adds correctional officers to the list of public safety employees who are entitled to a presumption that hypertension and heart disease and certain infectious diseases are occupational diseases compensable under the Virginia Workers' Compensation Act.

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

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

**8. Fiscal Implications:** The conditions referenced in this bill are often high cost and chronic and can result in death or long term disability. For example, a review of heart lung presumption claims filed in FY 12 shows an average cost per claim of nearly \$57,000. Because the Commonwealth's State Employee Workers' Compensation Program premiums are experience-based, agencies that employ correctional officers (mainly, the Department of Corrections), would bear any increased cost to the program for claims covered by this legislation. Due to the fact that the Department of Corrections receives most of its funding from the general fund, any eventual impact would result in a general fund cost. The magnitude of the costs is dependent on the number and severity of claims and thus, the fiscal impact is indeterminate.

**9. Specific Agency or Political Subdivisions Affected:** Agencies employing corrections officers, primarily the Department of Corrections.

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

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

**Date:** 1/14/12