

Fiscal Estimate Narratives

DWD 11/4/2019

LRB Number 19-0740/1	Introduction Number SB-511	Estimate Type Original
Description claims for compensation for post-traumatic stress disorder by police officers and fire fighters under the worker's compensation law		

Assumptions Used in Arriving at Fiscal Estimate

This bill proposes changes to the conditions of liability for worker's compensation benefits allowing for a law enforcement officer or a full-time fire fighter who is diagnosed with post-traumatic stress disorder related to employment to bring a claim for worker's compensation benefits and sets a maximum duration of benefits at 32 weeks.

As this bill would allow an additional condition for which worker's compensation benefits may be received, this estimate assumes that the number of submitted claims for Worker's Compensation benefits would increase. With an increased number of claims, it is also assumed that the number of hearings regarding contested claims would increase. As a result of the overall increased workload, operational and administrative costs are expected to increase in the s.20.445 (1) (ra) Worker's Compensation Operations Fund. Furthermore, it is estimated that the bill would also broaden the s.20.445 (1) (t) Work Injury Supplemental Benefit Fund's exposure to claims under the barred claims statute s.102.66. The Department, however, is not able to reliably project the number of increased claims and hearings, and those associated costs, thus the fiscal effect is indeterminate.

Lastly, the bill would increase costs to all types of local government units subject to the Worker's Compensation provisions that employ law enforcement officers or full-time fire fighters. However, the Department is unable to accurately project the extent to which these costs would increase.

Long-Range Fiscal Implications

Indeterminate.