



HOUSE COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS
2009-10 Legislative Session

FISCAL NOTE

HOUSE BILL: 664

PRINTER'S NO: 726

PRIME SPONSOR: DiGirolamo

FISCAL IMPACT SUMMARY	FY 2008/09	FY 2009/10
Expenditure Increase/(Decrease):		
General Fund	\$0	\$0
Local Funds	See Analysis	See Analysis

OVERVIEW:

House Bill 664 amends Section 601 the Pennsylvania Worker's Compensation Act, relating to establishing workers' compensation coverage for various volunteer service personnel, including volunteer firemen, volunteer ambulance corps members and local coordinators of emergency management who injured while answering an emergency call.

Under the list of volunteer services, this act would add members of community emergency response teams who: (1) have completed a Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) program as outlined by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA); (2) are authorized, in writing, by a county or municipality to assist first responders in disaster assistance; (3) are acting voluntarily in the capacity of assisting first responders in an emergency or disaster as declared by the U.S. President or the PA Governor; (4) are properly dispatched by the municipality or county to assist first responders; (5) are injured while actively engaged in assisting first responders or going to or from the emergency; and (6) have written acknowledgments, in advance of injury, from the county or municipality stating that the county or municipality opts to cover the individuals under this act and assumes liability for the individuals.

This act would take effect in 60 days.

ANALYSIS:

Under House Bill 664, CERT members can qualify for workers' compensation payments within the parameters specified in the bill. Counties and/or municipalities choosing to cover workers' compensation claims for CERT members under this act will incur some costs to provide this coverage. The exact cost to the county and/or municipality will vary due to fluctuations in the number of members of community emergency response teams covered; claims filed; and the number and severity of emergencies or disasters.

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House Appropriations Committee, (D)

DATE: March 25, 2009

General Note and Disclaimer: *This Fiscal Note was prepared pursuant to House Rule 19(a), and the elements considered and reported above are required by Section 5 of the rule. Estimates are calculated using the best information available. Actual costs and revenue impact incurred may vary from estimates.*