



HOUSE COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS
2009-10 Legislative Session

FISCAL NOTE

HOUSE BILL: 1231

PRINTER'S NO: 1780

PRIME SPONSOR: Murphy

FISCAL IMPACT SUMMARY	FY 2009/10	FY 2010/11
Expenditure Increase/(Decrease):		
General Fund	\$0	\$0
Local Funds	See Analysis	See Analysis

OVERVIEW:

House Bill 1231 amends the Pennsylvania Workers' Compensation Act to further define cancer as an occupational disease for firefighters who become disabled or die directly as a result of employment. This would only apply to cancer that is caused by exposure to heat, smoke, fumes, or gases, and firefighters must have served four years or more for the benefit or safety of the public. The employer would have the burden of proving that the firefighter's occupation was not a major contributing cause of lung carcinoma.

The Pennsylvania Workers' Compensation Act provides that a compensable disability or death must occur within 300 weeks of the last exposure to a hazard. This bill would amend that section the act to provide that limitations stated concerning 300 week limitations for filing claims would not apply in the case of cancer developed by a firefighter.

This act would take effect immediately.

ANALYSIS:

House Bill 1231 would not impact Commonwealth funds; however, this bill may result in increased costs to municipalities and/or volunteer fire companies, many of which are self-insured. Additional costs may be realized due to changes in the workers' compensation benefit rate that may occur for effected entities that currently fund workers' compensation premiums for employed firefighters. Enactment of this act may increase claim payments for qualifying individuals, therefore increasing a fire department's claims history. As a result, this activity may increase the workers' compensation premium.

Calculation of costs is dependent on how future claims affect a fire department's claim history, which is used to calculate the workers' compensation premium.

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House Appropriations Committee, (D)

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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.*