



HOUSE COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS

FISCAL NOTE

HOUSE BILL NO. 930

PRINTER'S NO. 964

PRIME SPONSOR: Dawkins

COST / (SAVINGS)

| FUND | FY 2022/23 | FY 2023/24 |
|--------------|------------|-------------------|
| General Fund | \$0 | See Fiscal Impact |

SUMMARY:

House Bill 930, Printer's Number 964 expands the range of injuries and the amount of compensation that can be paid for serious and permanent disfigurement injuries under the Workers' Compensation Act.

ANALYSIS:

The bill extends benefits to workers who suffer serious and permanent disfigurement of the body, expanding the scope from the current head, neck and face injuries. In addition, the number of compensable weeks is increased from 275 to 400 weeks.

The bill also allows disfigurement benefits to be paid separately from total or partial disability benefits, allowing both classes of benefits to be collected by a worker with a serious and permanent disfigurement injury.

The bill takes effect in 60 days and applies to injuries sustained on or after the effective date.

FISCAL IMPACT:

Data on the current landscape of disfigurement claims within the workers' compensation program is not readily available.

According to the Department of Labor and Industry, disfigurement claims are not currently a separate claim petition, and are included within the traditional claim petition, so the total volume of disfigurement claims currently paid is unknown. The Workers' Compensation Administration Information System, or WCAIS, does not separately track the disfigurement award data from the total award for a claim petition, so the average amount and length of compensation for disfigurement is also unknown.

The bill would make more types of injuries compensable as disfigurement injuries, increase the number of weeks payable and allow multiple types of benefits to be awarded for the injury. These changes would expand benefits to injured workers, which would increase costs to provide those benefits. The exact impact is unknown because of the data limitations discussed above. Because the commonwealth self-insures its workers' compensation liability, to the extent that an employee of the commonwealth suffered a serious and permanent disfigurement injury that was compensable, it would face increased costs.

PREPARED BY: Eric Dice
House Appropriations Committee (D)

DATE: May 2, 2022

Estimates are calculated using the best information available. Actual costs and revenue impact incurred may vary from estimates.