



HOUSE COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS

FISCAL NOTE

HOUSE BILL NO. 183

PRINTER'S NO. 506

PRIME SPONSOR: Dawkins

COST / (SAVINGS)

FUND	FY 2024/25	FY 2025/26
General Fund	See Fiscal Impact	See Fiscal Impact

SUMMARY:

House Bill 183 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:

House Bill 183 amends Article III – Liability and Compensation – of the Workers' Compensation Act (Act 338 of 1915) by making changes to the schedule of compensation for a specific disability resulting from permanent injuries.

The Workers' Compensation Act defines the types of injuries eligible for compensation, along with the duration of benefits and the percentage of wages employees can receive. House Bill 183 expands the scope of "serious and permanent disfigurement," previously limited to the head, neck, or face, to include the entire body. Additionally, for the same injury, the corresponding maximum duration of benefits is increased from 275 weeks to 400 weeks. The bill also specifies that a claimant is not precluded from simultaneously collecting both a total or partial disability benefit and a disfigurement benefit.

This bill would take effect in 60 days. The changes shall apply to permanently disfiguring injuries for which permanent disfigurement is reached on or after the effective date regardless of when the original injury occurred.

FISCAL IMPACT:

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 below. 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.

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, but rather, they are included within the traditional claim petition. Therefore, 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.

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House Appropriations Committee (D)

DATE: April 7, 2025

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