

# SENATE APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE FISCAL NOTE

**BILL NO.** House Bill 664

**PRINTER'S NO.** 726

**AMOUNT**

No Fiscal Impact

**FUND**

General

**DATE INTRODUCED**

February 27, 2009

**PRIME SPONSOR**

Representative DiGirolamo

**HISTORY OF BILL**

Referred to LABOR RELATIONS, Feb. 27, 2009

Reported as committed, March 18, 2009

First consideration, March 18, 2009

Laid on the table, March 18, 2009

Removed from table, March 18, 2009

Re-committed to APPROPRIATIONS, March 18, 2009

Re-reported as committed, March 25, 2009

Second consideration, March 25, 2009

Third consideration and final passage, March 30, 2009 (193-0)

In the Senate

Referred to LABOR AND INDUSTRY, April 2, 2009

Reported as committed, Sept. 21, 2010

First consideration, Sept. 21, 2010

Re-referred to APPROPRIATIONS, Sept. 27, 2010

Re-reported as committed, Sept. 29, 2010

Second consideration, Sept. 29, 2010

**DESCRIPTION AND PURPOSE OF BILL**

House Bill 664 adds members of community emergency response teams (CERTs) who meet certain criteria to the definition of "employee" for Workers' Compensation coverage. The CERT members who would be eligible would:

- 1) Have completed a CERT program as outlined by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA),
- 2) Be authorized, in writing, by a county or municipality to assist first responders in disaster assistance,

## **SENATE APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE FISCAL NOTE**

- 3) Be acting voluntarily in the capacity of assisting first responders in an emergency or disaster as declared by the U.S. President or the Pennsylvania Governor,
- 4) Be properly dispatched by the municipality or county to assist first responders,
- 5) Have been injured while actively engaged in assisting first responders or going to or from the emergency,
- 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.

The act will take effect in 60 days.

### **FISCAL IMPACT:**

In meeting all of the criteria listed above, the CERT members would be eligible for workers' compensation payments. Counties and/or municipalities choosing to cover workers' compensation claims for CERT members will incur some costs to provide such coverage. The exact cost to the county and/or the municipality will vary due to fluctuations in the number of CERT members covered, the number of claims filed, and the number and severity of emergencies or disasters.

No fiscal impact will be incurred by the Commonwealth.