

SENATE APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE FISCAL NOTE

BILL NO. Senate Bill 638

PRINTER'S NO. 1390

AMOUNT

\$921,000 Savings

FUND

General

DATE INTRODUCED

February 24, 2011

PRIME SPONSOR

Senator Ward

HISTORY OF BILL

Referred to PUBLIC HEALTH AND WELFARE, Feb. 24, 2011

Reported as committed, May 4, 2011

First consideration, May 4, 2011

Re-referred to APPROPRIATIONS, June 8, 2011

Re-reported as amended, June 20, 2011

DESCRIPTION AND PURPOSE OF BILL

Amends the Public Welfare Code to limit mileage reimbursement through the medical assistance transportation program for individuals receiving methadone treatment. Mileage reimbursement will only be granted if treatment is received from the narcotic treatment program closest to the individual's residence based on a one-way trip calculation.

The Department of Public Welfare may make exceptions to the rule based on medical emergency and the availability of the closest licensed provider.

Requires medical assistance transportation programs in consultation with the department to develop procedures for the prevention, detection and reporting of suspected fraud and abuse relating to the reimbursement of mileage for methadone treatment.

The act is shall take effect in 30 days.

FISCAL IMPACT:

The Governor's Budget office indicates that there will be a savings from the enactment of Senate Bill 638 but did not quantify the amount.

Based upon information provided by the Department of Public Welfare, there will 591 methadone clients affected by this limitation monthly. On average, these clients will see their monthly reimbursement for mileage reduced by \$253.28. The total savings for the enactment of this bill is estimated at \$1.796 million, with \$0.921 of the savings being State General Funds.