

Department of Fiscal Services  
Maryland General Assembly

FISCAL NOTE

House Bill 840 (Prince George's County Delegation)  
Economic Matters

---

**Prince George's County - Deputy Sheriffs - Workers' Compensation  
PG 317-96**

---

This bill extends the presumption of compensability under the workers' compensation law to include Prince George's County deputy sheriffs who suffer from heart disease or hypertension resulting in partial or total disability. The benefits are available only to the extent that the condition of the individual's hypertension or heart disease is more severe after employment than before.

---

**Fiscal Summary**

**State Effect:** None. The State does not contribute to workers' compensation coverage for Prince George's County employees.

**Local Effect:** Prince George's County expenditures could increase by an indeterminate, substantial amount. Revenues would not be affected. **This bill imposes a mandate on a unit of local government.**

---

**Fiscal Analysis**

**Local Expenditures:** Prince George's County has a self-funded workers' compensation program. Any additional claims incurred as a result of this bill would directly increase the county's expenditures. The county employs 205 deputy sheriffs. It is estimated that the bill would not generate many additional claims; however, a single claim could be extremely costly. For example, the county could be responsible for paying a \$525 weekly disability benefit for 40 years or more in addition to extensive medical bills. The Injured Workers' Insurance Fund estimates that an average worker's compensation claim for hypertension or heart disease is at least \$35,000. However, any claim has the potential of becoming much more costly.

---

**Information Source(s):** Prince George's County, Injured Workers' Insurance Fund,  
Department of Fiscal Services

**Fiscal Note History:** First Reader - February 8, 1996

ncs

---

Analysis by: Tina Bjarekull

Reviewed by: John Rixey

Direct Inquiries to:

John Rixey, Coordinating Analyst

(410) 841-3710

(301) 858-3710