

Department of Fiscal Services
Maryland General Assembly

FISCAL NOTE

House Bill 543 (Delegate Mossburg)
Economic Matters

**Workers' Compensation - Drug-Free Workplace Program -
Use of Drugs or Alcohol**

This bill provides that a covered employee or dependent of a covered employee is not entitled to workers' compensation benefits, except for medical services and treatment, if:

- the claimant's alcohol or drug abuse was a substantial cause of an accidental on-the-job injury;
- the claimant's employer is in compliance with the drug-free workplace standards established by the Governor's Drug and Alcohol Abuse Commission;
- the drug or alcohol use was detected through an approved and properly-conducted test; and
- the level of intoxicant or drug equals or exceeds levels established by the U.S. Department of Transportation.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: Potential minimal decrease in expenditures because the number of workers' compensation claims or the benefit level for certain workers' compensation claims could decline. The average workers' compensation claim cost for 1995 was \$21,000, which includes medical services and treatment. Since the State has very few alcohol or drug related accidents annually, any decrease is expected to be minimal. Revenues would not be affected.

Local Effect: Potential minimal decrease in expenditures to the extent that the local employer pays less workers' compensation premiums or claims. Revenues would not be affected.

Information Source(s): Uninsured Employers' Fund, Subsequent Injury Fund, Injured

Workers' Insurance Fund

Fiscal Note History: First Reader - February 9, 1996

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