

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
1999 Session

FISCAL NOTE
Revised

Senate Bill 245 (Senator Teitelbaum. *et al.*)

Finance

Workers' Compensation - Permanent Total Disability Claims - Cost of Living
Adjustments

This bill exempts certain covered employees from the filing limitation period for awards from the Criminal Injuries Compensation Board. Under current law, compensation claims must be received by the board within 180 days of the date of the crime. To be eligible for the exemption from the filing period, the covered employee must be: (1) entitled to workers' compensation that is not subject to a cost of living adjustment (COLA); (2) have been a victim of crime; and (3) have not previously filed a claim for an award with the Criminal Injuries Compensation Board. Such a covered employee would be eligible for an award from the board in addition to compensation paid by any other source which the covered employee receives for a permanent total disability. Under current law, the board does not pay claims that have already been the basis for a workers' compensation award.

State workers' compensation law has provided COLAs on permanent total disability claims since January 1, 1988. Thus, to be eligible under this bill, the covered employee must have suffered the on-the-job injury prior to that date, in addition to the criteria noted above.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: Indeterminate increase in special fund expenditures for compensation payments. One-time payments by the Criminal Injuries Compensation Board could increase by up to \$45,000 for each medical claim and \$25,000 for each disability-related claim for individuals made eligible for compensation under the bill. The number of additional claims that might result cannot be reliably estimated at this time.

Local Effect: None.

Small Business Effect: None.

Information Source(s): Department of Legislative Services

Fiscal Note History: First Reader - February 9, 1999

lnc/jr Revised - Senate Third Reader - April 2, 1999

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