

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
2000 Session

FISCAL NOTE
Revised

House Bill 1007 (Prince George's County Delegation)
Economic Matters

Prince George's County - Correctional Officers - Workers' Compensation
PG 318-00

This bill adds Prince George's County correctional officers to the group of State and local law enforcement officers for whom there is a presumption of occupational disease for workers' compensation purposes, when specified heart illnesses have resulted in partial or total disability or death. The officer is entitled to the presumption only to the extent that the current condition is more severe than it was prior to the officer's employment. Prince George's County correctional officers employed on or before September 30, 2000, must provide to the Prince George's County Department of Correctional Services a medical report of any such existing conditions.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: The bill would not directly affect State operations or finances.

Local Effect: Potential minimal increase in workers' compensation expenditures for Prince George's County as a result of including local correctional officers in the heart illness presumption.

Small Business Effect: None.

Analysis

Current Law: A paid police officer employed by an airport authority, a county, the Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission, a municipality, or the State, or a deputy sheriff of Montgomery County or Prince George's County is presumed to be suffering from an occupational disease that was suffered in the line of duty and that is compensable if: (1) the police officer or deputy sheriff is suffering from heart disease or hypertension; and

(2) the heart disease or hypertension results in partial or total disability or death.

The police officer or deputy sheriff is entitled to receive the workers' compensation benefits in addition to any retirement benefits that the individual is entitled to receive at the time of the claim. The workers' compensation benefits must be adjusted so that the weekly total of those benefits and the retirement benefits does not exceed the police officer's or deputy sheriff's weekly salary.

A Prince George's County deputy sheriff is entitled to the presumption only to the extent that the individual suffers from heart disease or hypertension that is more severe than the individual's heart disease or hypertension existing prior to the individual's employment as a Prince George's County deputy sheriff. To be eligible for the presumption, a Prince George's County deputy sheriff, as a condition of employment, must submit to a medical examination to determine any heart disease or hypertension condition existing prior to the individual's employment as a Prince George's County deputy sheriff.

Additional Information

Prior Introductions: An identical bill was introduced in the 1999 session as HB 828 and was not reported out of the Senate Finance Committee.

Cross File: None.

Information Source(s): Injured Workers' Insurance Fund, Workers' Compensation Commission, Prince George's County, Department of Legislative Services

Fiscal Note History: First Reader - March 10, 2000
ncs/jr Revised - House Third Reader - March 25, 2000

Analysis by: Ryan Wilson

Direct Inquiries to:
John Rixey, Coordinating Analyst
(410) 946-5510
(301) 970-5510