

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
2003 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE
Revised

House Bill 736

(Delegate McHale, *et al.*)

Economic Matters

Finance

Workers' Compensation - Occupational Disease - Baltimore City Deputy Sheriffs

This bill extends the presumption of a compensable occupational disease under the workers' compensation law to include Baltimore City deputy sheriffs who suffer from heart disease or hypertension resulting in partial or total disability or death. Deputy sheriffs are eligible for the presumption only to the extent that the heart disease or hypertension is more severe than the individual's heart disease or hypertension condition existing prior to employment as a deputy sheriff. Deputy sheriffs will be required to provide a medical report to qualify for this presumption.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: This bill would not materially affect State government operations.

Local Effect: Minimal impact due to inclusion of deputy sheriffs in heart disease and hypertension presumption for workers' compensation.

Small Business Effect: None.

Analysis

Bill Summary: Deputy sheriffs employed on or before September 30, 2003 are required, as a condition of continued employment, to provide the Baltimore City Sheriff with a medical report disclosing and describing any existing heart disease or hypertension by December 31, 2003. Deputy sheriffs employed on or before September 30, 2003 are eligible for the presumption only to the extent that any heart disease or hypertension is

more severe than the heart disease or hypertension existing as of the date of the medical report.

Current Law: The presumption for heart disease and hypertension is extended to a paid police officer employed by an airport authority, a county, the Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission, a municipality, or the State; a deputy sheriff of Montgomery County and Prince George's County; and a correction officer of Prince George's County.

Background: The Baltimore City Sheriff's Office is primarily responsible for serving civil processes, providing court security, and transporting prisoners. The Sheriff of Baltimore City is authorized to appoint 100 deputy sheriffs. The sheriff must appoint 17 deputy sheriffs in command, management, and administrative functions and may appoint 83 deputy sheriffs in operational and enforcement functions. The 17 command positions are an undersheriff or chief deputy sheriff, 2 deputy sheriff majors, 2 deputy sheriff captains, 4 deputy sheriff lieutenants, 4 deputy sheriff sergeants, 1 administrative officer II sheriff, 1 secretary sheriff, 1 fiscal associate II sheriff, and 1 fiscal clerk sheriff.

Local Expenditures: A minimal increase in workers' compensation expenditures is expected due to the potential contraction of heart disease or hypertension by deputy sheriffs. The amount cannot be reliably quantified at this time.

Additional Information

Prior Introductions: None.

Cross File: SB 633 (Senator McFadden) – Finance.

Information Source(s): Uninsured Employers' Fund, Workers' Compensation Commission, Injured Workers' Insurance Fund, Subsequent Injury Fund, Baltimore City, Department of Legislative Services

Fiscal Note History: First Reader - February 24, 2003
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