

Department of Legislative Services  
Maryland General Assembly  
2004 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE

House Bill 776  
Economic Matters

(Montgomery County Delegation)

Finance

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Workers' Compensation - Montgomery County Deputy Sheriffs  
MC 412-04

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This bill includes Montgomery County deputy sheriffs in the list of public safety employees entitled to receive increased benefits for permanent partial disabilities (PPDs) under the State's workers' compensation laws. Deputy sheriffs who are awarded PPD claims of less than 75 weeks would be compensated at the rate used for awards of 75-250 weeks for nonpublic safety claims.

The bill applies to claims arising from events occurring on or after the bill's October 1, 2004 effective date.

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**Fiscal Summary**

**State Effect:** The bill would not materially affect State government operations.

**Local Effect:** Montgomery County is self-insured for workers' compensation. Workers' compensation awards would increase by approximately \$25,000.

**Small Business Effect:** None.

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**Analysis**

**Current Law:** Public safety employees entitled to receive enhanced workers' compensation benefits for periods of less than 75 weeks include specified volunteer and paid firefighters, paramedics, and police officers. A public safety employee entitled to

the enhanced benefits is entitled to two-thirds of his or her average weekly wage, not to exceed one-third of the State average weekly wage.

**Background:** Chapter 303 of 2001 included Prince George's County deputy sheriffs in the definition of a public safety employee for purposes of PPD benefit calculations.

**Local Fiscal Effect:** Montgomery County advises that the maximum increased cost per claim will average approximately \$9,525. The county further advises that it has paid 11 claims in the past three years that would have qualified for the enhanced benefits under the provisions of this bill. Applying the maximum average claim increase to an average volume of four claims per year yields an increase in workers' compensation payments of \$38,100. The county estimates that claims payments will only increase by approximately \$25,000 annually.

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### **Additional Information**

**Prior Introductions:** None.

**Cross File:** None.

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

**Fiscal Note History:** First Reader - March 2, 2004  
n/mdr

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