

Department of Legislative Services  
Maryland General Assembly  
2006 Session

**FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE**

House Bill 22  
Economic Matters

(Delegates Cluster and Boteler)

---

**Workers' Compensation - Occupational Disease - Baltimore County Deputy Sheriffs**

---

This bill adds Baltimore County deputy sheriffs to the occupational disease presumption provisions of the workers' compensation laws for officers who suffer from heart disease or hypertension resulting in partial or total disability or death.

As a condition of continued employment, by December 31, 2006, each deputy sheriff must provide a copy of a baseline medical report on any existing heart disease or hypertension. The employee will be entitled to the presumption only to the extent that he or she suffers from heart disease or hypertension that is more severe than any condition existing as of the date of the medical report.

---

**Fiscal Summary**

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

**Local Effect:** **Baltimore County did not respond to repeated requests for information; therefore, a reliable estimate of the effects of this bill could not be determined.** However, a similar bill introduced in the 2005 session relating to Montgomery County was estimated to increase workers' compensation costs by \$63,000 to \$173,000 annually.

**Small Business Effect:** None.

---

## Analysis

**Current Law:** Presumptions of compensable injury exist for heart disease, hypertension, and lung disease for • certain public safety employees and first-responders including paid and volunteer firefighters; • paid and volunteer firefighting instructors; • sworn members of the Office of the Fire Marshal employed by an airport authority, a county, a fire control district, a municipality, or the State; • volunteer rescue squad members; • volunteer advanced life support unit members; • paid police officers employed by an airport authority, a county, the Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission, a municipality, or the State; or • a deputy sheriff and correctional officer of Montgomery County.

Baltimore City Deputy sheriffs and Prince George's County deputy sheriffs and correctional officers have presumptions for heart disease and hypertension to the extent that the heart disease and hypertension are more severe than the individual's heart disease or hypertension before employment. To be eligible for the presumption, the employee must submit to a medical exam to determine if any heart disease or hypertension exists prior to employment.

**Background:** Baltimore County is self-insured for workers' compensation purposes. There are currently 71 deputy sheriffs in Baltimore County with total annual salaries of \$2,972,309.

---

### Additional Information

**Prior Introductions:** None.

**Cross File:** None.

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

**Fiscal Note History:** First Reader - February 14, 2006  
mam/jr

---

Analysis by: Karen S. Benton

Direct Inquiries to:  
(410) 946-5510  
(301) 970-5510