

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
2007 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE

House Bill 184
Economic Matters

(Delegate Krysiak, *et al.*)

Finance

**Joint Committee on Workers' Compensation Benefit and Insurance Oversight -
Membership**

This bill increases the membership of the Joint Committee on Workers' Compensation Benefit and Insurance Oversight from 14 to 15. The additional member is appointed by the President and Speaker and must be certified by the Workers' Compensation Commission (WCC) as a Maryland rehabilitation service provider.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: Any expense reimbursements for the additional committee member is assumed to be minimal and absorbable within existing budgeted resources.

Local Effect: None.

Small Business Effect: None.

Analysis

Current Law: The Joint Committee on Workers' Compensation Benefit and Insurance Oversight is charged with examining and evaluating the condition of the workers' compensation benefit and insurance structure in the State. The committee is also required to review the adequacy and appropriateness of all workers' compensation benefits and make recommendations for necessary changes. The current committee includes representatives from various industries and professions including the insurance industry, the business community, and the medical profession.

Background: Rehabilitation practitioners, including certified nurse case managers, rehabilitation counselors, vocational evaluators, and certain case managers, provide vocational rehabilitation services for injured workers. Chapter 625 of 1997 provided for the regulation of rehabilitation practitioners, requiring those who provide services to more than three injured workers per year to be certified by WCC.

Additional Information

Prior Introductions: An identical bill was introduced in 2006 as HB 627. The bill passed the House, but received an unfavorable report from the Senate Finance Committee.

Cross File: None.

Information Source(s): Injured Workers' Insurance Fund, Department of Legislative Services

Fiscal Note History: First Reader - February 9, 2007
ncs/jr

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