

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
2008 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE

Senate Bill 897

(Senators Exum and Kittleman)

Finance

Workers' Compensation Commission - Medical Fee Guide Committee -
Membership

This bill requires the Workers' Compensation Commission to establish a committee within the commission to review its guide of medical and surgical fees for completeness and reasonableness every two years and make appropriate revisions. Committee membership must, at all times, consist of one or more dentists.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: The bill's requirement to establish a committee could be handled with existing resources.

Local Effect: None.

Small Business Effect: None.

Analysis

Current Law: The Workers' Compensation Commission may adopt regulations regarding • the provision of medicine and medical, nursing, and hospital services to a covered employee; • payment for the medicine and services; • and the referral of cases regarding excessive treatment by a physician or health care provider. WCC may regulate the fees and other charges for medical services or treatment. Each fee or other charge for medical service or treatment is limited to the amount that prevails in the same community for similar treatment of an injured individual with a standard of living that is comparable to that of the covered employee. At least once every two years, WCC must review its

guide of medial and surgical fees for completeness and reasonableness and make appropriate revisions.

Background: The Workers' Compensation Commission administers employee claims resulting from work-related injuries or disabilities. It processes and adjudicates all claims, maintains a record of all contested cases, certifies a complete record to the judicial forum in case of an appeal, and refers those individuals requiring vocational rehabilitation to appropriate providers. About 28,000 employee claims are filed with the commission each year. The Guide to Medical and Surgical fees is used to calculate WCC reimbursements.

Additional Information

Prior Introductions: None.

Cross File: None.

Information Source(s): Workers' Compensation Commission, Department of Legislative Services

Fiscal Note History: First Reader - March 14, 2008
mcp/ljm

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