

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
2013 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE

Senate Bill 717
Finance

(Senator Ramirez)

**Workers' Compensation Commission - Regulation of Charges - Medical Services
and Treatment**

This bill specifies that fees charged by a medical expert (for the examination of a covered employee, the preparation of a report, testimony, or similar services) are included among the fees and other charges for medical services or treatment that the Workers' Compensation Commission (WCC) may regulate.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: The bill authorizes, but does not require, WCC to regulate specified fees paid by employers (including the State) in workers' compensation cases. Any impact on State finances is expected to be minimal. Revenues are not affected.

Local Effect: The bill authorizes, but does not require, WCC to regulate specified fees paid by employers (including local governments) in workers' compensation cases. Any impact on local government finances is expected to be minimal. Revenues are not affected.

Small Business Effect: Minimal.

Analysis

Current Law: WCC may regulate fees and other charges for medical services or treatment. Each fee or other charge for medical services 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.

WCC is required to, at least biennially, review its guide of medical and surgical fees (for completeness and reasonableness) and revise the guide as appropriate. The guide includes fees paid by the claimants for medical evaluations but does not encompass those paid by employers.

Calculations for the reimbursement of medical fees are established in regulation. In addition, a physician is required, by regulation, to meet specified requirements when preparing an evaluation of permanent impairment; WCC may not approve payment of a physician's fee for an evaluation that does not comply with these requirements.

Additional Information

Prior Introductions: None.

Cross File: HB 664 (Delegates Hucker and Jameson) - Economic Matters.

Information Source(s): Department of Legislative Services

Fiscal Note History: First Reader - February 15, 2013
ncs/ljm

Analysis by: Jennifer A. Ellick

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