

MW

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LB 151

Revision: 01

FISCAL NOTE

LEGISLATIVE FISCAL ANALYST ESTIMATE

Updated to reflect amendments adopted through May 3, 2011.

ESTIMATE OF FISCAL IMPACT – STATE AGENCIES *				
	FY 2011-12		FY 2012-13	
	EXPENDITURES	REVENUE	EXPENDITURES	REVENUE
GENERAL FUNDS				
CASH FUNDS				
FEDERAL FUNDS				
OTHER FUNDS				
TOTAL FUNDS				

*Does not include any impact on political subdivisions. See narrative for political subdivision estimates.

This bill, as amended, would make changes to the Workers' Compensation Act. It removes the requirement that the court must maintain offices in the State Capitol. It allows telephonic and videoconferencing. The amended bill removes the requirement that Workers' Compensation Court judges reside in Lancaster County. It also includes provisions of LB238 (removes the three-judge review panel) and LB346 (authorize contempt powers for the court).

The Legislative Fiscal Office analyst (LFO) has been in contact with the Workers' Compensation Court and the court does not anticipate any fiscal impact from this bill, as amended.

The Workers' Compensation Court notes that elimination of the review panels would clearly alter the work activities of the judges and litigation staff, but the time and effort currently put into those panels would be redirected to conducting more trial level hearings. This in turn would reduce the time delay between the filing of a petition and the trial. The court further notes that conducting more trial level hearings could result in increased travel costs for the judges, but that could be offset by the videoconferencing provisions which would reduce the need for travel and related costs.