



132nd MAINE LEGISLATURE

LD 82

LR 39(02)

An Act to Amend the Workers' Compensation Laws by Extending Indefinitely the Presumption Applying to Law Enforcement Officers, Corrections Officers, E-9-1-1 Dispatchers, Firefighters and Emergency Medical Services Persons Diagnosed with Post-traumatic Stress Disorder

Fiscal Note for Bill as Amended by Committee Amendment " "

Committee: Labor

Fiscal Note Required: Yes

Fiscal Note

State Mandate - Exempted

Potential current biennium cost increase - All funds

State Mandates

Required Activity

Making permanent the requirement that shifts the burden of proof that a law enforcement officer, firefighter, emergency medical services worker, corrections officer or E-9-1-1 dispatcher diagnosed as having post-traumatic stress disorder by a psychiatrist or psychologist developed that condition as a result of work stress from the claimant to the employer and/or the employer's insurer may continue to necessitate a more vigorous and costly legal defense by municipalities and counties and potentially increase the number of cases lost.

Unit Affected

Municipality
County

Local Cost

Significant
statewide

Pursuant to the Mandate Preamble, the two-thirds vote of all members elected to each House exempts the State from the constitutional requirement to fund 90% of the additional costs.

Fiscal Detail and Notes

This legislation may also result in additional costs to the State as a direct reimbursement employer and to the Department of Public Safety and the Department of Corrections associated with increased payments of workers' compensation benefits and legal and administrative expenses. The impact will depend on actual experience.