

REVENUE: No revenue impact

FISCAL: Minimal fiscal impact, no statement issued

Action: Do Pass as Amended and Be Printed Engrossed

Vote: 5 - 0 - 0

Yeas: Avakian, Beyer, Gordly, Monroe, Prozanski

Nays: 0

Exc.: 0

Prepared By: Anna Braun, Administrator

Meeting Dates: 4/23

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES: Allows payment of reasonable costs for records, expert opinions, and witness fees associated with appealing a workers' compensation claim, if claimant prevails. Caps reimbursement for reasonable costs at \$1500 unless the claimant demonstrates extraordinary circumstances justifying payment of a greater amount.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Costs of medical opinions
- Definition of extraordinary circumstances
- Support of the Management Labor Advisory Committee

EFFECT OF COMMITTEE AMENDMENT: Caps reimbursement for reasonable costs at \$1500 unless the claimant demonstrates extraordinary circumstances justifying payment of a greater amount.

BACKGROUND: Currently, in order to bring a claim, an injured worker is responsible to pay for obtaining records, for the appearance of witnesses and the costs of preparing an expert witness report. SB 404-A allows the Workers' Compensation Board, the Administrative Law Judge or the court to order payment of these costs to the claimant, if the claimant prevails.