

to give reductions, this provision would not increase or decrease state spending. However, it would provide the administrator more flexibility in the timing of these refunds and reductions.

Local Fiscal Highlights

LOCAL GOVERNMENT	FY 2003	FY 2004	FUTURE YEARS
Political subdivisions			
Revenues	- 0 -	- 0 -	- 0 -
Expenditures	Potential increase	Potential increase	Potential increase

Note: For most local governments, the fiscal year is the calendar year. The school district fiscal year is July 1 through June 30.

- The definitional change could result in additional cases and additional health care costs. It is possible, though unlikely, that additional cases would require a premium increase for the job descriptions covered by the bill, thereby increasing workers' compensation costs to political subdivisions. The primary political subdivisions affected would be counties, cities, villages, and townships.
- The terms of the bill also apply to self-insured public employers. There are no local public employers that yet qualify for self-insured status; however, future public employers who qualify for self-insurance will be required to pay for these tests. Paying for diagnostic tests would raise their workers' compensation costs in the future, if they have any cases.

Detailed Fiscal Analysis

The bill requires that the cost of medical diagnostic tests be paid for when on or off-duty members of police and fire departments and emergency medical workers come into contact with bodily fluids during their work. Although BWC handles about 50-100 such claims per year, it is not known how many instances of contact with bodily fluid would be reported to the Bureau as a result of this bill.

The bill applies to public employers that make premium payments to the State Insurance Fund, and to self-insuring public employers. On the state level, only state universities, not including affiliated hospitals, may qualify for self-insurance. Although political subdivisions can apply for self-insurance, none has met the qualification requirements.

Although there are only between 50-100 such cases a year, the cost of providing these tests could increase future premium payments required for those state and local employers, whether insured by the State Insurance Fund or self-insured. According to the Bureau, testing costs range from \$300-\$1,200 per individual. Thus, total annual costs could range from \$15,000 to \$120,000.

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