

FISCAL NOTE
SB 355 - HB 1092

March 8, 2001

SUMMARY OF BILL: Provides worker compensation claimants access to TennCare physicians or surgeons, in addition to employer selected physicians, if such TennCare provider agrees to accept the same reimbursement for treatment of the injured employee as they would receive from TennCare.

ESTIMATED FISCAL IMPACT:

Increase State Expenditures - Exceeds \$100,000/Claims Award Fund

Increase Local Govt. Expenditures* - Exceeds \$100,000

Currently, injured state employees are directed to a statewide workers' compensation network for treatment of a work-related injury. Significantly increasing the number of health care providers who could treat injured state employees would likely result in increased administrative costs and reduced discounts that have been negotiated with current network providers resulting in increased rates paid for treatments. The amount of increase cannot be determined but is estimated to exceed \$100,000.

There is also estimated to be an increase in payments for claims of local government employees. Such employees would no longer have to choose from a panel of 3 physicians selected by the employer. The amount of increase cannot be determined but is estimated to exceed \$100,000.

**Article II, Section 24 of the Tennessee Constitution provides that: no law of general application shall impose increased expenditure requirements on cities or counties unless the General Assembly shall provide that the state share in the cost.*

CERTIFICATION:

This is to duly certify that the information contained herein is true and correct to the best of my knowledge.



James A. Davenport, Executive Director

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