

TENNESSEE GENERAL ASSEMBLY  
FISCAL REVIEW COMMITTEE



**FISCAL NOTE**

**HB 2257 - SB 2190**

March 1, 2020

**SUMMARY OF BILL:** Requires an injured worker, subject to workers' compensation coverage, whose treating physician has determined that such worker be referred to a specialist, be provided with a panel of specialists, rather than such panel only be provided upon the employer's request.

Establishes a minimum period of 180 days for an injured worker to request additional benefits following such worker reaching maximum medical improvement.

Lowers the minimum impairment rating, from 10 percent to 9 percent, for increased benefit eligibility in extraordinary cases.

Deletes requirement that a full and final hearing of the Court of Workers' Compensation be provided to an employee who has filed a claim against an employer for workers' compensation benefits no more than 60 days after the notice of hearing has been filed.

**ESTIMATED FISCAL IMPACT:**

**NOT SIGNIFICANT**

Assumptions:

- Requiring an employee be referred to a panel of specialist, instead of only receiving such reference upon request by an employer is estimated to have no significant impact upon state government.
- Authorizing a minimum time period for a worker having reached maximum medical improvement is estimated to have no significant impact upon state government.
- Lowering the minimum impairment rating for increased eligibility to workers' compensation benefits in extraordinary cases may result in additional workers' compensation payments being made to affected employees. Any such additional payments are estimated to primarily impact private sector employment and have no significant impact upon state government.
- Deleting the requirement of a full and final hearing before the Court of Workers' Compensation no more than 60 days after the notice of hearing has been filed is not assumed to result in a reduced number of total hearings by such Court and will have no significant impact upon state government.

**IMPACT TO COMMERCE:**

**Increase Business Expenditures – Exceeds \$10,000/FY20-21 and Subsequent Years**

Assumptions:

- This legislation could result in additional workers’ compensation payments to employees by private employers.
- The amount of any additional payments made by private employers will be based on multiple unknown variables and cannot be determined, but is reasonably estimated to exceed \$10,000.

**CERTIFICATION:**

The information contained herein is true and correct to the best of my knowledge.



Krista Lee Carsner, Executive Director

/jdb