

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES STAFF ANALYSIS

BILL #: PCB INBS 11-03 Repeal of a Workers' Compensation Reporting Requirement

SPONSOR(S): Insurance & Banking Subcommittee

TIED BILLS: **IDEN./SIM. BILLS:**

REFERENCE	ACTION	ANALYST	STAFF DIRECTOR or BUDGET/POLICY CHIEF
Orig. Comm.: Insurance & Banking Subcommittee		Reilly	Cooper

SUMMARY ANALYSIS

Section 440.59, F.S., requires the Division of Workers' Compensation (DWC) to prepare an annual report, which is to be distributed by the following September 15th to the Governor and the Legislature. The report must provide information on the Workers' Compensation Administration Trust Fund, the causes of accidents leading to workplace injuries covered by the Workers' Compensation Law, and recommendations of the DWC. The DWC also includes information that is not mandated by statute. An annual report that is published on September 15th contains data (on the previous calendar year) that are nearly nine months old.

The bill repeals s. 440.59, F.S., repealing the requirement for an annual report on worker's compensation. The DWC estimates that 2,223 work hours are spent preparing and producing each year's annual report, and advises that the information in the report would remain available upon request if the annual report were discontinued.

The bill is effective July 1, 2011.

FULL ANALYSIS

I. SUBSTANTIVE ANALYSIS

A. EFFECT OF PROPOSED CHANGES:

Workers' Compensation Annual Report

Section 440.59, F.S., requires the Division of Workers' Compensation (DWC) to prepare an annual report, which is to be distributed by the following September 15th to the Governor and the Legislature. The report is also made available online. The report provides information on the Workers' Compensation Administration Trust Fund, the causes of accidents leading to workplace injuries covered by the Workers' Compensation Law, chapter 440, F.S., and recommendations of the DWC. The DWC also includes information that is not mandated by statute. An annual report that is published on September 15th contains data (on the previous calendar year) that are nearly nine months old. The DWC estimates that 2,223 work hours are spent preparing and producing each year's annual report.¹

Effect of the Bill

The bill repeals s. 440.59, F.S., which requires the DWC to publish an annual report. The DWC advises that if the bill were enacted into law, the information currently provided in the annual report would remain available to the Legislature upon request.

The bill is effective July 1, 2011.

B. SECTION DIRECTORY:

Section 1: Repeals s. 440.59, F.S., providing for an annual report on workers' compensation.

Section 2: Provides an effective date of July 1, 2011.

II. FISCAL ANALYSIS & ECONOMIC IMPACT STATEMENT

A. FISCAL IMPACT ON STATE GOVERNMENT:

1. Revenues:

None.

2. Expenditures:

Enactment of the bill would result in annual savings of 2,223 work hours by DWC employees and over \$1,400 in printing costs.

B. FISCAL IMPACT ON LOCAL GOVERNMENTS:

1. Revenues:

None.

2. Expenditures:

None.

¹ Correspondence from the Division of Workers' Compensation on file with staff of the Insurance & Banking Subcommittee.

C. DIRECT ECONOMIC IMPACT ON PRIVATE SECTOR:

None.

D. FISCAL COMMENTS:

To the extent that the time DWC employees currently spend on the annual report could be used more productively and allow employees to assume additional responsibilities, it is likely that the bill will result in cost savings to the DWC.

III. COMMENTS

A. CONSTITUTIONAL ISSUES:

1. Applicability of Municipality/County Mandates Provision:

Not applicable. This bill does not appear to: require counties or municipalities to spend funds or take an action requiring the expenditure of funds; reduce the authority that counties or municipalities have to raise revenues in the aggregate; or, reduce the percentage of a state tax shared with counties or municipalities.

2. Other:

None.

B. RULE-MAKING AUTHORITY:

None.

C. DRAFTING ISSUES OR OTHER COMMENTS:

None.

IV. AMENDMENTS/ COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE CHANGES