

**LEGISLATIVE BUDGET BOARD**

**Austin, Texas**

**FISCAL NOTE, 78TH LEGISLATIVE REGULAR SESSION**

**April 29, 2003**

**TO:** Honorable Helen Giddings, Chair, House Committee on Business & Industry

**FROM:** John Keel, Director, Legislative Budget Board

**IN RE: HB833** by Hochberg (relating to certain pharmaceutical services for an injured employee receiving workers' compensation medical benefits. ), **Committee Report 1st House, Substituted**

**No significant fiscal implication to the State is anticipated.**

The bill amends the Labor Code to allow an injured employee to purchase a brand name drug rather than a generic pharmaceutical medication or over-the-counter alternative if the prescribing doctor prescribes a brand name drug or generic drug for the employee. The employee could not seek reimbursement for this voluntary action.

The Texas Workers' Compensation Commission indicates that passage of the bill would have a \$2,500 one-time cost to the agency. It is assumed that the costs associated with the bill could be reasonably absorbed with current resources.

**Local Government Impact**

No fiscal implication to units of local government is anticipated.

**Source Agencies:** 453 Workers' Compensation Commission, 478 Research and Oversight Council on Workers' Compensation

**LBB Staff:** JK, JRO, RT, JW