

LEGISLATIVE BUDGET BOARD
Austin, Texas

FISCAL NOTE, 79TH LEGISLATIVE REGULAR SESSION

April 2, 2005

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

FROM: John S. O'Brien, Deputy Director, Legislative Budget Board

IN RE: HB251 by Eissler (Relating to the release of certain information regarding a workers' compensation claim.), **As Introduced**

No significant fiscal implication to the State is anticipated.

The bill would amend the section of the Labor Code relating to record checks and the release of claim information. The bill would provide that an insurance carrier that has adopted an antifraud plan does not have to demonstrate the existence of subclaims to access certain claim information from the Texas Workers' Compensation Commission (TWCC). The bill would allow an insurance carrier or a representative of the carrier to submit requests for claim information to TWCC on a monthly basis. The bill would require TWCC to provide the requested information in an electronic format and require the inclusion of certain specific information. The bill would allow TWCC to establish a reasonable fee for the requested information.

Based on the analysis of the Texas Workers' Compensation Commission, it is assumed that any costs and duties associated with implementing the provisions of the bill could be absorbed within the agency's existing resources.

The bill would take effect immediately upon receiving a two-thirds majority vote in both houses; otherwise, the bill would take effect September 1, 2005.

Local Government Impact

No fiscal implication to units of local government is anticipated.

Source Agencies: 453 Workers' Compensation Commission, 454 Department of Insurance, 327 Employees Retirement System, 479 State Office of Risk Management

LBB Staff: JOB, JRO, SR, MW, TG