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OHIO LEGISLATIVE SERVICE COMMISSION

Office of Research
and Drafting

Legislative Budget
Office

H.B. 559
135th General Assembly

Fiscal Note & Local Impact Statement

[Click here for H.B. 559's Bill Analysis](#)

Version: As Introduced

Primary Sponsor: Rep. Abdullahi

Local Impact Statement Procedure Required: Yes

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Highlights

- The bill would increase premium costs for public employers that pay into the State Insurance Fund and self-insured public employers. The potential rate increase on public employers that pay into the State Insurance Fund will depend on the number of claims and by applicable peace officers who are diagnosed with a psychiatric condition and the total benefits paid.

Detailed Analysis

The bill specifies that a peace officer, firefighter, or emergency medical worker who is diagnosed with a psychiatric condition that has been received in the course of, and has arisen out of, the person's employment as a peace officer, firefighter, or emergency medical worker is eligible to receive compensation and benefits under Ohio's Workers' Compensation Law for up to a year beginning on the date the compensation or benefit payments start, regardless of whether the condition is connected to a compensable physical injury. The bill also eliminates the current State Post-Traumatic Stress Fund, which is administered by the Director of Budget and Management.

Fiscal effect

The bill would increase both the number of claims filed and the amounts of medical benefits and lost time benefits paid from the State Insurance Fund. The bill's requirements would increase premium costs for public employers that pay into the State Insurance Fund. The bill would also increase workers' compensation costs for self-insured public employers.

According to an actuarial analysis of H.B. 559, prepared by the Bureau of Workers' Compensation's (BWC) actuaries and dated July 1, 2024, the estimated cost of claims related to the bill's coverage is approximately \$20.3 million per year. The estimate is based on the method

and assumptions described in the actuarial analysis. However, the actual cost may be higher or lower than BWC's estimated costs and would depend on the actual number of applicable peace officers who are diagnosed with a psychiatric condition and the total benefits paid.