



127th MAINE LEGISLATURE

LD 81

LR 301(01)

An Act To Amend the Workers' Compensation Laws as They Pertain to Employee Representation

Preliminary Fiscal Impact Statement for Original Bill

Sponsor: Sen. Patrick of Oxford

Committee: Labor, Commerce, Research and Economic Development

Fiscal Note Required: Yes

Preliminary Fiscal Impact Statement

Potential current biennium cost increase - All Funds

Fiscal Detail and Notes

This legislation expands the definition of "duress" under the Workers' Compensation Act of 1992 that determines under what circumstances certain statements made by an injured employee may not be admitted into evidence in workers' compensation proceedings to include the injured employee's answers to questions from an employer or an employer representative when the injured employee has been denied a request to have a representative of the employee's choice present.

The Office of Workers' Compensation within the Bureau of Human Resources, Department of Administrative and Financial Services, indicates that this legislation may result in additional costs to the State's Workers' Compensation Management Fund Program if the provision in this legislation results in situations where, in order to comply with the injured employee's request, the process of coordinating schedules results in a delay in the injured employee receiving medical treatment resulting in an increase in the amount of time that the injured employee remains out of work.