

NORTH CAROLINA GENERAL ASSEMBLY

LEGISLATIVE FISCAL NOTE

BILL NUMBER: Senate Bill 498 (First Edition)

SHORT TITLE: Workers' Comp./Physician Selection

SPONSOR(S): Senator Odom

FISCAL IMPACT

Yes () No (X) No Estimate Available ()

No Fiscal Impact Expected

PRINCIPAL DEPARTMENT & PROGRAM AFFECTED: North Carolina Industrial Commission

EFFECTIVE DATE: Applies to workers' compensation awards on or after the date the bill becomes law.

BILL SUMMARY: Modifies GS 97-25 to allow an injured employee under the state's Workers' Compensation Act the right to request a one-time change of physician without the approval of the North Carolina Industrial Commission.

ASSUMPTIONS AND METHODOLOGY:

1. The North Carolina Industrial Commission, who administers the state's Workers' Compensation Act, estimates that the proposed bill, if enacted, would have minimal fiscal impact on the administration of workers' compensation claims. The Commission estimates that it handles approximately 476 "change of physician" requests annually and that the rate of requests should not increase or decrease measurably under the proposed bill.

TECHNICAL CONSIDERATIONS: None.

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