

FISCAL NOTE
Requested by Legislative Council
02/08/2007

Amendment to: SB 2294

1A. State fiscal effect: *Identify the state fiscal effect and the fiscal effect on agency appropriations compared to funding levels and appropriations anticipated under current law.*

	2005-2007 Biennium		2007-2009 Biennium		2009-2011 Biennium	
	General Fund	Other Funds	General Fund	Other Funds	General Fund	Other Funds
Revenues						
Expenditures						
Appropriations						

1B. County, city, and school district fiscal effect: *Identify the fiscal effect on the appropriate political subdivision.*

2005-2007 Biennium			2007-2009 Biennium			2009-2011 Biennium		
Counties	Cities	School Districts	Counties	Cities	School Districts	Counties	Cities	School Districts

2A. Bill and fiscal impact summary: *Provide a brief summary of the measure, including description of the provisions having fiscal impact (limited to 300 characters).*

The engrossed bill provides for the reopening of a claim after 4 years of no payment activity in the event that clear and convincing evidence is presented that the work injury is "the primary cause of" the current symptoms versus "the sole cause of" the current systems.

B. Fiscal impact sections: *Identify and provide a brief description of the sections of the measure which have fiscal impact. Include any assumptions and comments relevant to the analysis.*

WORKFORCE SAFETY & INSURANCE
2007 LEGISLATION
SUMMARY OF ACTUARIAL INFORMATION

BILL NO: Engrossed SB 2294

BILL DESCRIPTION: Closed Claim Presumption

SUMMARY OF ACTUARIAL INFORMATION: Workforce Safety & Insurance, together with its actuary, Glenn Evans of Pacific Actuarial Consultants, has reviewed the legislation proposed in this bill in conformance with Section 54-03-25 of the North Dakota Century Code.

The engrossed bill provides for the reopening of a claim after 4 years of no payment activity in the event that clear and convincing evidence is presented that the work injury is "the primary cause of" the current symptoms versus "the sole cause of" the current systems.

FISCAL IMPACT: We do not have access to sufficient data to permit a comprehensive evaluation of the potential rate level and reserve impact of the engrossed bill. However, WSI anticipates that, if passed in its present form, the legislation will act to increase costs. The introduction of a clear standard for reopening claims was an important element of the workers' compensation reform package that was passed in the mid 1990's. Since then, time loss claim frequency has declined from prior levels. Though many factors contributed to the observed decrease in claim frequency, WSI believes that the proposed legislation could act to partially reverse the trend.

The proposed change may also act to increase the level of uncertainty of any actuarial estimates because of the increased potential for upward loss development (increases in cost estimates) associated with very old injuries.

DATE: February 8, 2007

3. **State fiscal effect detail:** *For information shown under state fiscal effect in 1A, please:*

A. **Revenues:** *Explain the revenue amounts. Provide detail, when appropriate, for each revenue type and fund affected and any amounts included in the executive budget.*

B. **Expenditures:** *Explain the expenditure amounts. Provide detail, when appropriate, for each agency, line item, and fund affected and the number of FTE positions affected.*

C. **Appropriations:** *Explain the appropriation amounts. Provide detail, when appropriate, for each agency and fund affected. Explain the relationship between the amounts shown for expenditures and appropriations. Indicate whether the appropriation is also included in the executive budget or relates to a continuing appropriation.*

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