



FISCAL NOTE

Senate Bill 278

Committee: Ways and Means Education

Sponsor: Senator Sam Givhan

Analyst: John Friedenreich

Date: 04/23/2024

Senate Bill 278 as passed the Senate would establish the Public Education Employee Injury Compensation Program to provide injury compensation benefits to full-time public K-12 education employees in the state. This bill would also provide for compensation payments, medical benefits, vocational rehabilitation and durable medical equipment, and would require the payment of two-thirds of an injured employee's salary if placed in a temporary or permanent disability status.

Additionally, this bill would create the three-member Public Education Employee Injury Compensation Board to administer the program and oversee the benefits paid to injured employees. Members of the board shall receive no compensation but would be reimbursed for travel and per diem expenses paid from the fund at the same rate as state employees.

Further, this bill would establish the non-reverting Public Education Employee Injury Compensation Trust Fund in the State Treasury, to pay claims, benefits, administrative costs, and all other costs of the program and further provisions that any unspent or unencumbered funds shall be carried over to the next fiscal year. Monies in the Fund may be invested and reinvested by the Director of Finance, through the Division of Risk Management.

Based on information provided by privately contracted workers' compensation consultants, the cost of this program to provide coverage for full-time public K-12 employees would be an estimated minimum of \$14.9 million.