

DEPARTMENT OF FINANCE BILL ANALYSIS

AMENDMENT DATE: 05/25/2012
POSITION: Oppose

BILL NUMBER: AB 2493
AUTHOR: Hernandez, Roger

BILL SUMMARY: Workers' compensation: administrative hearings and medical examinations and treatments: interpreters.

This bill would allow the Department of Industrial Relations (DIR) to establish, maintain, administer, and publish annually, a list of certified administrative hearing and medical examination interpreters for purposes of Workers' Compensation Appeals Board hearings and medical examinations, as specified. As an alternative to constructing and maintaining this list, the DIR may contract with an independent organization.

FISCAL SUMMARY

This bill would result in additional costs to the DIR's Workers' Compensation Administration Revolving Fund of \$130,000 in 2012-13 and \$120,000 ongoing to amend regulations and administer the interpreter test.

COMMENTS

The Department of Finance opposes this bill for the following reasons:

- The State Personnel Board (SPB) is statutorily required to maintain and publish a list of interpreters, therefore, this bill would result in duplicative tasks among state departments.
- This bill does not provide a funding mechanism to support the cost for implementation of this measure.

Existing law requires the SPB to establish, maintain, administer, and publish annually an updated list of certified court, administrative hearing, and medical examination interpreters. Existing law entitles an injured worker who is not proficient in English to an interpreter at various stages of the workers' compensation process.

This bill would allow the Administrative Director of the Division of Workers' Compensation, within the DIR, to establish, maintain, administer, and publish annually a list of certified administrative hearing and medical examination interpreters determined to meet minimum statutory standards. This bill also provides authority for the Administrative Director to contract with an independent organization to carry out these functions.

Although the SPB charges each applicant a fee of \$150 for certification, the author's office states that the fee is insufficient to support the program and because of recent budget constraints, the SPB has been unable to certify a sufficient number of interpreters for the workers' compensation system. The author's office states that this bill will be amended to direct the \$150 applicant fee to the DIR, but Finance does not anticipate any efficiency or savings from the DIR conducting certifications, and therefore, would anticipate that the DIR would incur unfunded additional costs.

Analyst/Principal (0241) J.Morozumi	Date	Program Budget Manager Lisa Ann Mangat	Date
Department Deputy Director		Date	
Governor's Office:	By:	Date:	Position Approved _____ Position Disapproved _____
BILL ANALYSIS			Form DF-43 (Rev 03/95 Buff)

BILL ANALYSIS--(CONTINUED)

AUTHOR

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Code/Department Agency or Revenue Type	SO	(Fiscal Impact by Fiscal Year)						Fund Code
	LA	(Dollars in Thousands)						
	CO	PROP						
	RV	98	FC	2011-2012	FC	2012-2013	FC	2013-2014
7350/DIR	SO	No	C	--	C	130	C	120 0223
<u>Fund Code</u>	<u>Title</u>							
0223	Workers' Comp Administration Revolv Fund							