



HOUSE REPUBLICAN STAFF ANALYSIS

Bill: House File 2382
Committee: Labor Committee
Date: February 24, 2010
Staff: Lon Anderson (1-5184)

Police and Fire Choice of Doctor – Doctor Shopping

House File 2382 provides that police and fire personnel may select their own doctor and medical care. The doctor need not be a specialist or occupational physician, and the expense must be paid for by the city.

Summary of Action

The House Labor subcommittee passed HF 2382 on a party-line vote on February 1, 2010.

Section by Section Analysis

Section 1 – Police and Fire Choice of Doctor The section amends Chapter 411.15 to specify that an employee covered under the 411 system (police and fire personnel) has the right to choose the care.

Current law states that the cities must pay for the care and many cities do allow the employees to choose their own doctor. The League of Cities and many Chambers of Commerce have concerns with the bill because they are afraid it will increase insurance premium costs. The business community is concerned with the bill because it appears to be a way to get doctor shopping in the Code in order to expand it later.

Amendments

H-8177 by Hunter allows cities to apply for a waiver from the workers compensation commissioner if the city can prove that it will experience an unreasonable increase in costs from employee choice of doctor.