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Office of Research
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S.B. 106
135th General Assembly

Fiscal Note & Local Impact Statement

[Click here for S.B. 106's Bill Analysis](#)

Version: As Reported by House Insurance

Primary Sponsor: Sen. Schaffer

Local Impact Statement Procedure Required: No

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Highlights

- The additional coverage for post-exposure testing for health care professionals who staff air ambulances could increase costs paid by the Bureau of Workers' Compensation (BWC) from the State Insurance Fund. Public employers that self-insure for workers compensation and that operate an air ambulance service could also experience a slight increase in costs to pay for post-exposure testing.

Detailed Analysis

The bill expands workers' compensation coverage to include payment for services used to determine whether a health care professional staffing an air ambulance sustained an injury or occupational disease after exposure to another person's blood or bodily fluids. As a result, costs that the Bureau of Workers' Compensation (BWC) pays from the State Insurance Fund (SIF) or by public employers that operate air ambulance services and that are self-insured for workers' compensation could increase slightly. Current law only provides workers' compensation coverage for this type of testing for emergency medical technicians (EMTs) and paramedics that are certified under the Emergency Medical Services Law, and certain peace officers, firefighters, and detention facility employees. The bill expands the coverage to include physicians, registered nurses, and any other person holding a current, valid certificate or license to practice a health care profession who staffs a rotorcraft or fixed wing air ambulance.

Because the specific types and costs of post-exposure testing and the frequency with which they would be administered are unknown, it is difficult to quantify any additional costs that would be paid from the SIF or by public employers under the bill. However, based on the small number of additional people that would be eligible for post-exposure testing under the bill, LBO estimates that aggregated costs could range from a few thousand to a few hundred thousand dollars annually, depending on the type of post-exposure testing required under the

circumstances. According to the Department of Public Safety (DPS), as of May 9, 2023, 15 air ambulance services operating 65 aircraft were licensed to operate in the state. A typical flight crew consists of three people.