

WORKERS' COMPENSATION BOARD

MISSION

The New York State Workers' Compensation Board protects the rights of employees and employers by ensuring the proper delivery of benefits to those eligible due to being injured or becoming ill while on the job and by promoting compliance with the law. To protect the well-being of New York's labor force, most private and public sector employers in New York are required to carry workers' compensation and disability benefits insurance for their employees or demonstrate their ability to self-insure. The Workers' Compensation Board reviews claims for workers' compensation payments and assists in resolving disputed claims. In performing these responsibilities, the Board administers provisions of the following laws: the Workers' Compensation Law; the Disability Benefits Law; the Civil Defense Volunteers' Law; the Volunteer Firefighters' Benefit Law; and the Volunteer Ambulance Workers' Benefit Law.

ORGANIZATION AND STAFFING

The Board is headed by a Chairperson selected by the Governor and includes 12 additional full-time members nominated by the Governor and confirmed by the Senate for seven-year terms. District offices are located in Albany, Binghamton, Brooklyn, Buffalo, Hauppauge, Hempstead, Manhattan, Peekskill, Queens, Rochester and Syracuse, with administrative offices in Albany. The Board has additional customer service centers located throughout the State.

BUDGET HIGHLIGHTS

The Executive Budget recommends **\$204.7 million** All Funds for the Workers' Compensation Board, all of which is funded from assessments on businesses. This amount is unchanged from the 2010-11 level. The Executive Budget projects a staffing level of **1,466** in 2011-12, which is an increase of **16** from 2010-11. This increase reflects positions added for the information technology in-sourcing initiative.

PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

Over the past several years, New York has seen sweeping statutory reform in the workers' compensation system. During this period, benefits have increased while costs have decreased; injured workers are receiving their benefits faster; and fraud has been aggressively pursued. The Board's efforts continue to be dedicated to implementing all of the reforms and an agenda of positive transformation within the agency. To that end, on December 1, 2010, the Board issued new medical treatment guidelines which are now the mandatory standard of care for mid- and lower-back, neck, shoulder and knee injuries. These guidelines established a standard of medical care for injured workers which will improve medical outcomes for workers and expedite quality care. The guidelines will also speed return to work by injured workers, reduce disputes between payers and medical providers over treatment issues and reduce overall system costs.

WORKERS' COMPENSATION

ALL FUNDS APPROPRIATIONS (dollars)

Category	Available 2010-11	Appropriations Recommended 2011-12	Change	Reappropriations Recommended 2011-12
State Operations	204,749,000	204,749,000	0	20,000,000
Aid To Localities	0	0	0	0
Capital Projects	0	0	0	0
Total	204,749,000	204,749,000	0	20,000,000

ALL FUND TYPES PROJECTED LEVELS OF EMPLOYMENT BY PROGRAM FILLED ANNUAL SALARIED POSITIONS

Full-Time Equivalent Positions (FTE)

Program	2010-11 Estimated FTEs 03/31/11	2011-12 Estimated FTEs 03/31/12	FTE Change
Disability Benefits			
Special Revenue Funds - Other	43	43	0
Workers Compensation			
Special Revenue Funds - Other	1,407	1,423	16
Total	1,450	1,466	16

The above table does not reflect layoffs that may be necessary in the absence of negotiated workforce savings.

STATE OPERATIONS ALL FUNDS FINANCIAL REQUIREMENTS BY FUND TYPE APPROPRIATIONS (dollars)

Fund Type	Available 2010-11	Recommended 2011-12	Change
Special Revenue Funds - Other	204,749,000	204,749,000	0
Total	204,749,000	204,749,000	0

Adjustments:	
Transfer(s) From	
Special Pay Bill	
Special Revenue Funds - Other	(375,000)
Appropriated 2010-11	204,374,000

STATE OPERATIONS ALL FUNDS FINANCIAL REQUIREMENTS BY PROGRAM APPROPRIATIONS (dollars)

Program	Available 2010-11	Recommended 2011-12	Change
Disability Benefits			
Special Revenue Funds - Other	7,369,000	7,369,000	0
Workers Compensation			
Special Revenue Funds - Other	197,380,000	197,380,000	0
Total	204,749,000	204,749,000	0

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STATE OPERATIONS - OTHER THAN GENERAL FUND SUMMARY OF APPROPRIATIONS AND CHANGES 2011-12 RECOMMENDED (dollars)

Program	Total Amount	Change	Personal Service Amount	Change
Disability Benefits	7,369,000	0	3,809,000	0
Workers Compensation	197,380,000	0	90,544,000	0
Total	204,749,000	0	94,353,000	0

Program	Nonpersonal Service Amount	Change	Maintenance Undistributed Amount	Change
Disability Benefits	3,560,000	0	0	0
Workers Compensation	106,477,000	0	359,000	0
Total	110,037,000	0	359,000	0