

WORKERS' COMPENSATION BOARD

MISSION

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 **\$202.3 million All Funds** for the Workers' Compensation Board, all of which is funded from assessments on businesses. This is a decrease of **\$15.1 million** from the 2009-10 Budget. This net change primarily reflects an adjustment for a prior year non-recurring appropriation of \$20 million to improve the quality, timeliness and fairness of services performed by the Board. The Executive Budget projects a staffing level of **1,450** in 2010-11, which is an increase of **25** from 2009-10. This increase reflects positions added to protect injured workers' benefits in both defaulted and viable self-insured groups.

PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

Over the past several years, New York has seen sweeping statutory reform in the workers' compensation system. Since then, benefits have increased while costs have decreased; injured workers are getting benefits faster; and fraud is being rooted out. Most recently, the Board's efforts have been dedicated to implementing these reforms and an agenda of positive transformation within the Board. Both have dramatically sped up the resolution of disputed cases and significantly reduced the number of cases awaiting hearing. In the past, it took an average of over 200 days to resolve disputed claims.

WORKERS' COMPENSATION

ALL FUNDS APPROPRIATIONS (dollars)

Category	Available 2009-10	Appropriations Recommended 2010-11	Change	Reappropriations Recommended 2010-11
State Operations	217,405,000	202,265,000	(15,140,000)	20,000,000
Aid To Localities	0	0	0	0
Capital Projects	0	0	0	0
Total	217,405,000	202,265,000	(15,140,000)	20,000,000

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

Full-Time Equivalent Positions (FTE)

Program	2009-10 Estimated FTEs 03/31/10	2010-11 Estimated FTEs 03/31/11	FTE Change
Disability Benefits			
Special Revenue Funds - Other	43	43	0
Systems Modernization			
Special Revenue Funds - Other	68	68	0
Workers Compensation			
Special Revenue Funds - Other	1,314	1,339	25
Total	1,425	1,450	25

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

Fund Type	Available 2009-10	Recommended 2010-11	Change
Special Revenue Funds - Other	217,405,000	202,265,000	(15,140,000)
Total	217,405,000	202,265,000	(15,140,000)

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

Program	Available 2009-10	Recommended 2010-11	Change
Disability Benefits			
Special Revenue Funds - Other	7,339,000	7,279,000	(60,000)
Systems Modernization			
Special Revenue Funds - Other	34,116,000	34,135,000	19,000
Workers Compensation			
Special Revenue Funds - Other	175,950,000	160,851,000	(15,099,000)
Total	217,405,000	202,265,000	(15,140,000)

WORKERS' COMPENSATION

**STATE OPERATIONS - OTHER THAN GENERAL FUND
SUMMARY OF APPROPRIATIONS AND CHANGES
2010-11 RECOMMENDED
(dollars)**

Program	Total		Personal Service	
	Amount	Change	Amount	Change
Disability Benefits	7,279,000	(60,000)	3,734,000	(190,000)
Systems Modernization	34,135,000	19,000	4,707,000	(591,000)
Workers Compensation	160,851,000	(15,099,000)	82,399,000	41,000
Total	<u>202,265,000</u>	<u>(15,140,000)</u>	<u>90,840,000</u>	<u>(740,000)</u>

Program	Nonpersonal Service		Maintenance Undistributed	
	Amount	Change	Amount	Change
Disability Benefits	3,545,000	130,000	0	0
Systems Modernization	29,428,000	610,000	0	0
Workers Compensation	78,093,000	4,858,000	359,000	(19,998,000)
Total	<u>111,066,000</u>	<u>5,598,000</u>	<u>359,000</u>	<u>(19,998,000)</u>