



New York State
PUBLIC EMPLOYEES
FEDERATION AFL-CIO
LEGISLATIVE DEPARTMENT
100 State Street, Suite 1070
Albany, NY 12207

Roger E. Benson, *President*

1-800-724-4997
1-518-432-4003
Fax: 1-518-432-7739

Jane Hallum, *Secretary Treasurer*

SUPPORT

January 26, 2006
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The New York State Public Employees Federation, representing 53,000 Professional, Scientific, and Technical workers of New York State, supports this legislation.

Under current law, the Department of Civil Service is responsible for administering State employee workers compensation benefits in coordination with the State Insurance Fund.

In the FY 2005-2006 State budget, the State estimates its annual cost for workers compensation claims by injured State employees to be \$196 million. The State is self-insured for workers compensation costs but the claims are administered by the State Insurance Fund. The current system does not make public information about accident rates categorized by agency or by job title. This limits the ability of the Legislature and agency managers to use injury information as a way to prevent workplace injuries and reduce costs.

Many workplace injuries can be prevented, but in order to develop effective methods, agencies and labor organizations need good data that can allow them to focus on agencies and job titles where the need is greatest. This bill would require public reporting of: the total number of employees, the number of work-related accidents and the rate of work-related injuries and illnesses; the number of lost work time injuries and the rate of lost work time cases; the number of days of lost work time; the cost to the state of lost work time due to work-related injuries and illnesses; a description of the types of injuries, the number of injuries and illnesses of each type and the most common causes of those cases, and the body part injured; a list of the job titles and a list of state agencies with work-related injury and illness rates that are more than twenty-five percent above the average for all state agencies; work-related injury and illness rates for all state agencies by collective bargaining unit; a summary of findings and recommendations for state agencies regarding the prevention of injury and illnesses and the reduction of costs due to these cases. This would be a valuable tool to reduce employee injuries and costs.

For these reasons, the Public Employees Federation urges you to support this legislation.

For more information, please contact:

Brian F. Curran, Legislative Director and Counsel