

Local Government Workers' Compensation

SB274 by Sen. Steve Livingston

HB334 by Rep. Prince Chestnut

Currently, most Alabama counties and cities participate in the Alabama Local Government Health Insurance Program (LGHIP). For over 25 years, the remarkably successful program has processed and paid health insurance service claims for the employees and dependents of its participating local governments – and LGHIP now provides coverage for more than 50,000 people across Alabama.

Unfortunately, to date, LGHIP has not had specific authorization to provide workers' compensation services, unlike the State Employees Insurance Fund, which allows state employees injured on the job to file workers' compensation claims. When a city or county worker is injured on the job today, his or her medical claims are processed through an outside network that does not utilize the same efficiencies and discounts that are available through the LGHIP.

This bill would authorize the LGHIP Board to process claims for on-the-job injuries suffered by local government employees whose employers are participants in the program. Under this piece of legislation, no participating entity would be required to process its workers' compensation claims through this optional program. Additionally, this bill further specifies that the existing health care coverage for a participating entity's employees would not be impacted should the entity chose not to participate.

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