



# House of Representatives

General Assembly

**File No. 57**

January Session, 2001

Substitute House Bill No. 5861

*House of Representatives, March 26, 2001*

The Committee on Labor and Public Employees reported through REP. DONOVAN of the 84th Dist., Chairperson of the Committee on the part of the House, that the substitute bill ought to pass.

## **AN ACT INCREASING THE MILEAGE REIMBURSEMENT RATE FOR WORKERS' COMPENSATION CLAIMANTS.**

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Assembly convened:

1 Subsection (a) of section 31-312 of the general statutes is repealed  
2 and the following is substituted in lieu thereof:

3 (a) [A person] An employee receiving medical attention under the  
4 provisions of this chapter and required to be absent from work for  
5 medical treatment, examination, laboratory tests, x-rays or other  
6 diagnostic procedures, and not otherwise receiving or eligible to  
7 receive weekly compensation, shall be compensated for the time lost  
8 from the job for required medical treatment and tests at the rate of [his]  
9 such employee's average earnings, but not less than at the minimum  
10 wage established by law, provided the amount payable in any one  
11 week shall not exceed the employee's weekly compensation rate. [of  
12 the individual.] Time lost from the job shall include necessary travel

13 time from the plant to the place of treatment, the time for the treatment  
14 and any other time that is necessary for the treatment, examination or  
15 laboratory test. The employer shall furnish or pay for the  
16 transportation of the employee by ambulance or taxi where  
17 transportation is medically required from the point of [his] departure  
18 for treatment and return. In all other cases, the employer shall furnish  
19 the employee transportation or [reimburse him] reimbursement for the  
20 cost of transportation actually used, at [the rate of fifteen cents per mile  
21 for a private motor vehicle] a rate equal to the federal mileage  
22 reimbursement rate for use of a privately owned automobile set forth  
23 in 41 CFR Part 301-10.303, as from time to time amended, for a private  
24 motor vehicle or the cost incurred for public transportation, from the  
25 employee's point of departure, whether [his] from the employee's  
26 home or place of employment, and return, if the employee is required  
27 to travel beyond a one-fare limit on an available common carrier from  
28 the point of departure to the place of treatment, examination or  
29 laboratory test. Where the medical attention or treatment is provided  
30 at a time other than during the employee's regular working hours and  
31 the employee is not otherwise receiving or eligible to receive weekly  
32 compensation, [he] the employee shall be compensated for the time  
33 involved for the medical treatment as though it were time lost from the  
34 job at the rate of [his] the employee's average hourly earnings and shall  
35 be paid for the cost of necessary transportation as provided in this  
36 subsection.

**LAB**      **JOINT FAVORABLE SUBST.**

The following fiscal impact statement and bill analysis are prepared for the benefit of members of the General Assembly, solely for the purpose of information, summarization, and explanation, and do not represent the intent of the General Assembly or either House thereof for any purpose:

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**OFA Fiscal Note**

**State Impact:** Minimal Cost (General, Special Transportation and Second Injury Funds)

**Affected Agencies:** Various State Agencies

**Municipal Impact:** Minimal Cost

**Explanation**

**State and Municipal Impact:**

The passage of this bill would result in minimal additional costs to the state and municipalities as employers, and to the Second Injury Fund. The bill increases an increase in the mileage reimbursement for workers' compensation recipients who are required to travel to medical and other appointments as a result of their work-related injury. It increases the rate for the use of a private motor vehicle from the current fifteen cents (\$0.15) per mile, to the federal mileage reimbursement rate, which is thirty-four and one-half cents (\$0.34½) per mile at this time. This is anticipated to increase workers' compensation costs by a minimal amount to the state and municipalities. It is estimated that the full year cost to the Second Injury Fund is \$6,000, with a partial year cost of \$4,500 in FY 02.

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**OLR Bill Analysis**

sHB 5861

***AN ACT INCREASING THE MILEAGE REIMBURSEMENT RATE FOR WORKERS' COMPENSATION CLAIMANTS.***

**SUMMARY:**

This bill increases, from 15 cents to the federal mileage reimbursement rate (currently 34.5 cents), the amount per mile employers must reimburse workers' compensation recipients when they use their own vehicles to go to and from medical appointments.

EFFECTIVE DATE: October 1, 2001

**COMMITTEE ACTION**

Labor and Public Employees Committee

Joint Favorable Substitute

Yea 14    Nay 0