



Senate

General Assembly

File No. 235

January Session, 2005

Substitute Senate Bill No. 1023

Senate, April 11, 2005

The Committee on Labor and Public Employees reported through SEN. PRAGUE of the 19th Dist., Chairperson of the Committee on the part of the Senate, that the substitute bill ought to pass.

AN ACT CONCERNING WORKERS' COMPENSATION COVERAGE FOR EMERGENCY SERVICES PERSONNEL RESPONDING TO EMERGENCIES OUTSIDE OF REGULAR EMPLOYMENT HOURS.

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

1 Section 1. Subparagraph (A) of subdivision (1) of section 31-275 of
2 the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu
3 thereof (*Effective October 1, 2005*):

4 (A) (i) For a police officer or firefighter, "in the course of his
5 employment" encompasses such individual's departure from such
6 individual's place of abode to duty, such individual's duty, and the
7 return to such individual's place of abode after duty;

8 (ii) For a police officer, firefighter or emergency medical technician
9 employed by the state or any of its political subdivisions, "in the course
10 of his employment" encompasses an accidental death, disability or
11 injury that occurs while such individual is responding to an

12 emergency outside of the individual's regular hours of employment,
13 provided the response to such emergency is within the scope of such
14 individual's regular duties;

15 [(ii)] (iii) Notwithstanding the provisions of clause (i) of this
16 subparagraph, the dependents of any deceased employee of the
17 Department of Correction who was injured in the course of his
18 employment, as defined in this subparagraph, on or after July 1, 2000,
19 and who died not later than July 15, 2000, shall be paid compensation
20 on account of the death, in accordance with the provisions of section
21 31-306, retroactively to the date of the employee's death. The cost of the
22 payment shall be paid by the employer or its insurance carrier which
23 shall be reimbursed for such cost from the Second Injury Fund as
24 provided in section 31-354 upon presentation of any vouchers and
25 information that the Treasurer may require.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	October 1, 2005	31-275(1)(A)

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:

OFA Fiscal Note

State Impact:

Agency Affected	Fund-Effect	FY 06 \$	FY 07 \$
Dept. of Administrative Services - Workers' Comp. Claims; Public Safety, Dept.	GF - Cost	Minimal	Minimal
Treasurer	SIF - Cost	6,000 - 12,000	6,000 - 12,000

Note: GF=General Fund; SIF=Second Injury Fund

Municipal Impact:

Municipalities	Effect	FY 06 \$	FY 07 \$
All Municipalities	STATE MANDATE - Cost	Minimal	Minimal

Explanation

The bill expands workers' compensation coverage for police officers, firefighters, and emergency services personnel employed by the state or its political subdivisions who are injured when responding to emergencies outside their regular work hours as long as their response is within the scope of their regular work duties.

This bill will result in a minimal fiscal impact to the state and municipalities. Under current practice, the state would not contest workers' compensation cases for public safety or emergency personnel who respond to emergencies outside of their regular work hours. The bill is a state mandate on municipalities, particularly to those municipalities that are self-insured.

This bill will also result in a minimal cost to the Second Injury Fund (SIF). The fiscal impact to the SIF is estimated to be \$6,000 - \$12,000 annually, based on a projected increase of 0.5% - 1.0% in annual concurrent employment claim payouts. It should be noted that, while

the SIF is operated by the State Treasurer, it is financed by private employer contributions.

OLR Bill Analysis

sSB 1023

AN ACT CONCERNING WORKERS' COMPENSATION COVERAGE FOR EMERGENCY SERVICES PERSONNEL RESPONDING TO EMERGENCIES OUTSIDE OF REGULAR EMPLOYMENT HOURS

SUMMARY:

The bill expands workers' compensation coverage for police officers, firefighters, and emergency medical technicians employed by the state or any of its political subdivisions who are injured, disabled, or die when responding to an emergency outside of their regular employment hours, as long as their response is within the scope of their regular work duties. Under current law, police officers and firefighters are covered by workers' compensation outside of their regular work hours only when they travel from home to work and from work to home.

EFFECTIVE DATE: October 1, 2005

COMMITTEE ACTION

Labor and Public Employees Committee

Joint Favorable Substitute

Yea 12 Nay 0