



# House of Representatives

General Assembly

**File No. 229**

February Session, 2008

House Bill No. 5438

*House of Representatives, March 27, 2008*

The Committee on Labor and Public Employees reported through REP. RYAN, K. of the 139th Dist., Chairperson of the Committee on the part of the House, that the bill ought to pass.

## ***AN ACT CONCERNING MAKING PERMANENT THE UNEMPLOYMENT BENEFITS FOR MILITARY SPOUSES.***

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

1 Section 1. Subparagraph (A) of subdivision (2) of subsection (a) of  
2 section 31-236 of the 2008 supplement to the general statutes is  
3 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July*  
4 *1, 2008*):

5 (2) (A) If, in the opinion of the administrator, the individual has left  
6 suitable work voluntarily and without good cause attributable to the  
7 employer, until such individual has earned at least ten times such  
8 individual's benefit rate, provided whenever an individual voluntarily  
9 leaves part-time employment under conditions that would render the  
10 individual ineligible for benefits, such individual's ineligibility shall be  
11 limited as provided in subsection (b) of this section, if applicable, and  
12 provided further, no individual shall be ineligible for benefits if the  
13 individual leaves suitable work (i) for good cause attributable to the  
14 employer, including leaving as a result of changes in conditions

15 created by the individual's employer, (ii) to care for a seriously ill  
16 spouse or child, or parent domiciled with the individual, provided  
17 such illness is documented by a licensed physician, (iii) due to the  
18 discontinuance of transportation, other than the individual's  
19 personally owned vehicle, used to get to and from work, provided no  
20 reasonable alternative transportation is available, (iv) to protect the  
21 individual or a child domiciled with the individual from becoming or  
22 remaining a victim of domestic violence, as defined in section 17b-  
23 112a, provided such individual has made reasonable efforts to  
24 preserve the employment, but the employer's account shall not at any  
25 time be charged with respect to any voluntary leaving that falls under  
26 subparagraph (A)(iv) of this subdivision, or (v) for a separation from  
27 employment that occurs [during the period beginning] on or after July  
28 1, 2007, [and ending on June 30, 2008,] to accompany a spouse who is  
29 on active duty with the armed forces of the United States and is  
30 required to relocate by the armed forces, but the employer's account  
31 shall not at any time be charged with respect to any voluntary leaving  
32 that falls under subparagraph (A)(v) of this subdivision; or (B) if, in the  
33 opinion of the administrator, the individual has been discharged or  
34 suspended for felonious conduct, conduct constituting larceny of  
35 property or service, the value of which exceeds twenty-five dollars, or  
36 larceny of currency, regardless of the value of such currency, wilful  
37 misconduct in the course of the individual's employment, or  
38 participation in an illegal strike, as determined by state or federal laws  
39 or regulations, until such individual has earned at least ten times the  
40 individual's benefit rate; provided an individual who (i) while on  
41 layoff from regular work, accepts other employment and leaves such  
42 other employment when recalled by the individual's former employer,  
43 (ii) leaves work that is outside the individual's regular apprenticeable  
44 trade to return to work in the individual's regular apprenticeable trade,  
45 (iii) has left work solely by reason of governmental regulation or  
46 statute, or (iv) leaves part-time work to accept full-time work, shall not  
47 be ineligible on account of such leaving and the employer's account  
48 shall not at any time be charged with respect to such separation, unless  
49 such employer has elected payments in lieu of contributions.



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 chamber thereof for any purpose:

**OFA Fiscal Note**

**State Impact:**

Agency Affected	Fund-Effect	FY 09 \$	FY 10 \$
Labor Dept.	Unemployment Compensation Fund - Cost	140,000	140,000
Comptroller Miscellaneous Accounts (Unemployment Benefits)	GF - Cost	Minimal	Minimal

Note: GF=General Fund

**Municipal Impact:**

Municipalities	Effect	FY 09 \$	FY 10 \$
All Municipalities	Cost	Minimal	Minimal

**Explanation**

The bill will result in a cost to the Department of Labor’s Unemployment Compensation Fund. Current law allows an individual, whose spouse is on active duty and is required by the armed forces of the United States to relocate, to apply for unemployment compensation benefits between July 1, 2007 and June 30, 2008. By removing the sunset date of June 30, 2008, these individuals will permanently be eligible to apply for benefits. Based on activity to date, the annual cost to the fund is estimated to be \$140,000.<sup>1</sup>

The portion of unemployment claims attributable to state employees (.74%) is paid from the unemployment compensation account administered by the State Comptroller and is estimated to be \$1,100 annually. The portion of unemployment claims made by municipalities (2.0%) is estimated to be \$2,800 annually.

***The Out Years***

The annualized ongoing fiscal impact identified above would continue into the future subject to inflation.

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<sup>1</sup> Four individuals filed for benefits in the first quarter, and seven individuals filed for benefits in the second quarter.

**OLR Bill Analysis**

**HB 5438**

**AN ACT CONCERNING MAKING PERMANENT THE UNEMPLOYMENT BENEFITS FOR MILITARY SPOUSES.**

**SUMMARY:**

This bill makes permanent the eligibility for unemployment compensation of military spouses who voluntarily leave their jobs to accompany a spouse required to relocate for active-duty service in the U. S. Armed Forces. Current law applies to spouses who leave their jobs between July 1, 2007 and June 30, 2008.

EFFECTIVE DATE: July 1, 2008

**BACKGROUND**

***Related Bill***

SB 47, reported by the Veterans' Committee, continues to June 30, 2014, from June 30, 2008, the eligibility for unemployment compensation of military spouses who voluntarily leave their jobs to accompany a spouse required to relocate for active-duty service in the U. S. Armed Forces.

**COMMITTEE ACTION**

Select Committee on Veterans' Affairs

Joint Favorable Change of Reference  
 Yea 10 Nay 0 (03/04/2008)

Labor and Public Employees Committee

Joint Favorable  
 Yea 9 Nay 0 (03/11/2008)