

Kess, Quinn

From: cmodugno@cox.net
Sent: Sunday, February 16, 2014 3:08 PM
To: LABTestimony
Subject: HB5066, To clarify the process by which certain workers may collectively bargain.

Dear Chairmen and Committee Members:

I am asking for your support of HB 5066 which would give Probate Court employees the right to collectively bargain.

Prior to and immediately following the Probate Courts merger the Probate Court employees did not receive an increase or cost of living adjustment in 5 years (letter from Probate Court Administrator Judge Knierim to Governor Malloy).

The following disparities continue to exist between Probate Court Administration's staff, who are State Employees and the Probate Court Employees:

1. Probate Court Employees are "AT WILL" employees of their Judge. We have NO protection or recourse of being fired for any reason whatsoever.
2. State employees reach their maximum in 10 years in their job classification with automatic increases plus longevity.
 - a. Probate Court Employees will reach their maximum in 20 years no automatic increases, no longevity.
3. Although Probate Court Administration contracted a salary study and implemented an increase in 2014. Based on the results of the study another study is going out to bid as this is written.
 - a. Probate Court Employees are paid significantly less than comparable positions of State Employees.
4. State employees have the freedom to apply for other State positions and continue their credit of State employment.
 - a. Probate employees CANNOT use their years of employment in Probate Court towards vesting in a State position.
5. State employees are vested in 5 years..
 - a. Probate employees vest in 10 years.
6. Prior to the merger of the Probate Courts, at 10 years of service you received 4 weeks vacation.
 - a. After the merger Probate Administration determined you now have to work 15 years.

Probate Administration dictates every aspect of the Probate Court and their employees while ALL the employees of Probate Administration are State of CT employees!!

These are the major egregious disparities.

The Probate Court employees provide a very valuable service to the residents of the State of Connecticut and should be recognized as a valuable asset rather than a second class employee.

Please vote for HB 5066.

Thank you,

Carol S. Modugno
Assistant Clerk