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Senate Bill 61.
An Act Concerning Workers' Compensation and Liability for Hospital Services

Labor and Public Employees Committee
February 18, 2014

The Department of Administrative Services (DAS), as the agency responsible for administering the State's workers' compensation program, offers the following testimony regarding Senate Bill 61, *An Act Concerning Workers' Compensation and Liability for Hospital Services*. DAS supports the establishment of a fee schedule setting the liability of employers for workers' compensation-related hospital services because it is well-established that negotiating discounts off of the master charge list is not an efficient or cost-effective way of providing medical services to injured employees. It should be noted, however, that the bill as currently drafted omits a crucial component; its scope should also encompass surgery centers. DAS would be happy to meet with the proponents of this bill to discuss in more detail how best to achieve the objectives of SB 61..

DAS also wanted to flag for the Committee's consideration line 82 of SB 61, which seeks to repeal section 31-294h of the Connecticut General Statutes (line 82). This statute relates to benefits for policies officers and firefighters who experience mental or emotional impairments and is completely unrelated to the issue of establishing a fee schedule. As such, DAS does not understand why this provision has been included in SB 61: