OLR Bill Analysis
sHB 5883 (as amended by House "A")*

AN ACT CONCERNING WORKERS’ COMPENSATION INSURANCE COVERAGE FOR DETOXIFICATION FOR CERTAIN INJURED EMPLOYEES, LOCAL AND REGIONAL BOARD OF EDUCATION EMPLOYEE NOTICES AND REIMBURSEMENT OF LOST WAGES FOR APPEARANCE AT A DEPOSITION.

SUMMARY

This bill explicitly requires that workers’ compensation benefits include detoxification treatments for prescription drugs prescribed to treat an injured employee’s injury. As with other medical services covered by workers’ compensation benefits, the detoxification treatments must be deemed reasonable or necessary by the treating physician or surgeon.

The law generally requires an injured employee seeking workers' compensation benefits to submit a written notice of claim for compensation to either a workers' compensation commissioner or the employer's last known residence or place of business. The bill requires someone employed by a local or regional board of education to submit the notice of claim to the local or regional board of education that employs him or her. Current law requires municipal employees to submit their notices of claim to the town clerk of the employing municipality but is otherwise silent about board of education employees.

Lastly, the bill requires that a workers’ compensation claimant’s benefits include reimbursement for the wages the claimant lost while appearing at a deposition before a workers’ compensation commissioner, if the claimant is not already receiving compensation for the appearance. Existing law similarly requires that claimants be reimbursed for appearing at a conference or informal hearing before a commissioner.
“House Amendment ‘A’” requires that workers’ compensation benefits cover detoxification treatments for prescription drugs prescribed to treat an injured employee, rather than for an injured employee who consumes prescribed opioid drugs for at least one year.

EFFECTIVE DATE: October 1, 2019, except the provision on detoxification treatment is effective July 1, 2019.

COMMITTEE ACTION
Labor and Public Employees Committee

Joint Favorable Substitute
Yea 13  Nay 0  (03/21/2019)