OLR Bill Analysis
HB 7241 (as amended by House "A")

AN ACT CONCERNING MINOR AND TECHNICAL CHANGES TO THE WORKERS’ COMPENSATION ACT.

SUMMARY

This bill makes various minor and technical changes to the workers’ compensation statutes. It:

1. retitles the workers’ compensation commissioners as “administrative law judges” in current statutes and in any public acts from the 2019 legislative session (§ 1);

2. reduces the frequency with which the workers’ compensation commission’s advisory board must meet from twice to once each quarter (among other things, the board must work with the workers’ compensation commission chairman to evaluate the performance of each compensation commissioner and advise about the list of physicians available to examine injured workers (CGS § 31-280)) (§ 2);

3. eliminates a requirement for the commission’s statistical division to be administered by a full-time, salaried director appointed by the Workers’ Compensation Commission’s chairperson (§ 3);

4. eliminates a provision that places the Workers’ Compensation Commission within the Department of Labor for administrative purposes only (§ 7);

5. eliminates obsolete provisions regarding (a) the transfer of certain cases to the Second Injury Fund (which has not been allowed since 1995), (b) an expert panel of pulmonologists (which has not met since the 1980s), and (c) the destruction of old workers’ compensation agreements filed in Superior Court (which has been obsolete since the creation of the Compensation
Review Division in 1980 and the subsequent Compensation Review Board) (§§ 4-7); and

6. makes technical and conforming changes.

*House Amendment “A” (1) explicitly specifies the statutes in which references to workers’ compensation commissioners must be changed to “administrative law judges,” (2) requires of the commissioners to be similarly retitled in any public acts from the 2019 legislative session, and (3) removes a provision which would have specified that the commission’s statistical division is within its management information systems division.

EFFECTIVE DATE: October 1, 2019

COMMITTEE ACTION

Labor and Public Employees Committee

Joint Favorable

Yea 14  Nay 0  (03/14/2019)