Bill No.: HB-7241
Title: AN ACT CONCERNING MINOR AND TECHNICAL CHANGES TO THE WORKERS' COMPENSATION ACT.
Vote Date: 3/14/2019
Vote Action: Joint Favorable
PH Date: 3/5/2019

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SPONSORS OF BILL:
Labor and Public Employees Committee.

REASONS FOR BILL:
The Worker’s Compensation Act requires minor and technical changes and updating.

RESPONSE FROM ADMINISTRATION/AGENCY:

Stephen Morelli, Chairman, Workers’ Compensation Comission:
Francis X. Drapeau, Chairman, Workers’ Compensation Section, CT Bar Association:
Both of the men listed gave essentially the same testimony details. This bill ‘cleans up’ the current act and removes three statutes that had no legal effect for many years. Section 1 changes the title of workers’ compensation commissioner to ‘workers’ compensation administrative law judge’ to better reflect the adjudicatory nature of the work. Section 2 reduces the number of face-to-face meetings of the commission’s advisory board from twice per quarter to once per quarter. Section 3 eliminates the position of statistician to conform the statute to the long-standing administrative practice. Section 4, which allowed employers to transfer liability to the second injury fund after 104 weeks of payments when a work injury was made worse by a qualifying preexistent condition, has been abolished and has been obsolete since 1999. Sections 5 and 6 would remove any other statutory references to the obsolete second injury fund transfers. Section 7 would repeal two obsolete statutes. Accessibility to the workers’ compensation system by removing the clutter of anachronistic statutes moves the Workers’ Compensation act closer to being an accurate statement of current law.
NATURE AND SOURCES OF SUPPORT:
None submitted.

NATURE AND SOURCES OF OPPOSITION:
None submitted.

Reported by:  Marie Knudsen                  Date: March 25, 2019