OLR Bill Analysis
SB 907

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 2021 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 helps evaluate the performance of compensation commissioners and advises on the 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 requirement that the audio recordings of formal hearings provided to parties be on cassette (§ 4);

5. eliminates obsolete provisions regarding (a) the transfer of certain cases to the Second Injury Fund (which has not been allowed since 1995) (§§ 5-7); (b) a medical panel of occupational lung disease physicians (which has not met since the 1980s) (§ 8); 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) (§ 8);

6. eliminates a provision that currently places the Workers’ Compensation Commission within the Department of Labor for administrative purposes only (§ 8); and

7. makes technical and conforming changes.

EFFECTIVE DATE: October 1, 2021

COMMITTEE ACTION

Labor and Public Employees Committee

Joint Favorable
Yea 13 Nay 0 (03/18/2021)