

OFFICE OF LEGISLATIVE RESEARCH
PUBLIC ACT SUMMARY



PA 22-79—sHB 5235

Judiciary Committee

AN ACT CONCERNING THE CONTENT OF REPORTS FROM THE OFFICE OF THE CLAIMS COMMISSIONER TO THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

SUMMARY: By law, the claims commissioner must submit two reports within five days after the General Assembly convenes for regular session. Specifically, she must submit a report on all (1) decided claims and (2) undisposed claims for which the General Assembly may consider certain actions (including granting the claim or an extension).

This act requires the report on all decided claims to be for the preceding calendar year and include the following information for that year:

1. the total number of new claims filed;
2. the total number of claims disposed of, dismissed, and denied;
3. a description of each order of immediate payment of a just claim in an amount not exceeding \$35,000, including the claimant's name, the amount paid, and the reason for the payment; and
4. the total number of claimants whom the commissioner authorized to sue the state.

By law, the claims commissioner must generally report on claims that remain undisposed for two years following the filing date or any granted extension. For the undisposed claims report, the act requires it to include:

1. an explanation on why the claim has not been disposed of and
2. the date a decision will be given on the claim if the General Assembly grants an extension of time to dispose of it.

EFFECTIVE DATE: October 1, 2022

BACKGROUND

Claims Against the State

Sovereign immunity limits when individuals can sue the state. Some statutes authorize individuals to sue the state in court for certain types of cases, but, in most instances, someone who wishes to sue the state must instead file a claim with the claims commissioner.

The commissioner must decide whether to (1) deny or dismiss the claim; (2) grant the claimant permission to sue the state; (3) award a claimant up to \$35,000; or (4) recommend that the General Assembly approve a higher award amount (CGS § 4-158).