



House of Representatives

General Assembly

File No. 76

January Session, 2023

Substitute House Bill No. 6721

House of Representatives, March 15, 2023

The Committee on Labor and Public Employees reported through REP. SANCHEZ, E. of the 24th Dist., Chairperson of the Committee on the part of the House, that the substitute bill ought to pass.

AN ACT CONCERNING WORKERS' COMPENSATION AND PORTAL-TO-PORTAL COVERAGE FOR TELECOMMUNICATORS.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Assembly convened:

1 Section 1. Subparagraph (A) of subdivision (1) of section 31-275 of the
2 general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu
3 thereof (*Effective October 1, 2023*):

4 (A) (i) For a police officer, [or] firefighter or a telecommunicator, as
5 defined in section 28-30, "in the course of his employment" encompasses
6 such individual's departure from such individual's place of abode to
7 duty, such individual's duty, and the return to such individual's place
8 of abode after duty;

9 (ii) For an employee of the Department of Correction, (I) when
10 responding to a direct order to appear at his or her work assignment
11 under circumstances in which nonessential employees are excused from
12 working, or (II) following two or more mandatory overtime work shifts

13 on consecutive days, "in the course of his employment" encompasses
 14 such individual's departure from such individual's place of abode
 15 directly to duty, such individual's duty, and the return directly to such
 16 individual's place of abode after duty;

17 (iii) Notwithstanding the provisions of clauses (i) and (ii) of this
 18 subparagraph, the dependents of any deceased employee of the
 19 Department of Correction who was injured in the course of his
 20 employment, as defined in this subparagraph, on or after July 1, 2000,
 21 and who died not later than July 15, 2000, shall be paid compensation
 22 on account of the death, in accordance with the provisions of section 31-
 23 306, retroactively to the date of the employee's death. The cost of the
 24 payment shall be paid by the employer or its insurance carrier which
 25 shall be reimbursed for such cost from the Second Injury Fund as
 26 provided in section 31-354 upon presentation of any vouchers and
 27 information that the Treasurer may require;

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	October 1, 2023	31-275(1)(A)

LAB *Joint Favorable Subst.*

The following Fiscal Impact Statement and Bill Analysis are prepared for the benefit of the members of the General Assembly, solely for purposes of information, summarization and explanation and do not represent the intent of the General Assembly or either chamber thereof for any purpose. In general, fiscal impacts are based upon a variety of informational sources, including the analyst's professional knowledge. Whenever applicable, agency data is consulted as part of the analysis, however final products do not necessarily reflect an assessment from any specific department.

OFA Fiscal Note

State Impact:

Agency Affected	Fund-Effect	FY 24 \$	FY 25 \$
Various State Agencies	GF - Potential Cost	See Below	See Below

Note: GF=General Fund

Municipal Impact:

Municipalities	Effect	FY 24 \$	FY 25 \$
Various Municipalities	STATE MANDATE ¹ - Potential Cost	See Below	See Below

Explanation

The bill results in a potential cost to the state and self-insured municipalities beginning in FY 24, resulting from an increase in medical and indemnity claims and premium costs to the extent that certain employees apply for Workers' Compensation benefits and meet the other conditions of the bill. The bill establishes portal-to-portal workers' compensation coverage for any individual employed as a telecommunications operator by a public safety agency, as defined in C.G.S. Sec. 28-25.

The Out Years

The annualized ongoing fiscal impact identified above would continue into the future subject to inflation and the number of eligible employees who apply for Worker's Compensation benefits.

¹ State mandate is defined in Sec. 2-32b(2) of the Connecticut General Statutes, "state mandate" means any state initiated constitutional, statutory or executive action that requires a local government to establish, expand or modify its activities in such a way as to necessitate additional expenditures from local revenues.

OLR Bill Analysis

sHB 6721

***AN ACT CONCERNING WORKERS' COMPENSATION AND
PORTAL-TO-PORTAL COVERAGE FOR TELECOMMUNICATORS.***

SUMMARY

This bill extends “portal-to-portal” workers’ compensation coverage to telecommunicators (i.e., 9-1-1 emergency dispatchers). With “portal-to-portal” coverage, an employee’s travel from home to the workplace or from the workplace to home is considered to be in the course of the employee’s employment. This makes an employee injured while traveling between home and work eligible to receive workers’ compensation benefits for the injury. Current law provides portal-to-portal coverage to police officers and firefighters and, under limited circumstances, to Department of Correction employees.

EFFECTIVE DATE: October 1, 2023

COMMITTEE ACTION

Labor and Public Employees Committee

Joint Favorable Substitute

Yea 10 Nay 1 (02/28/2023)