



# House of Representatives

**File No. 805**

General Assembly

January Session, 2023

**(Reprint of File No. 76)**

Substitute House Bill No. 6721  
As Amended by House Amendment  
Schedule "A"

Approved by the Legislative Commissioner  
May 19, 2023

**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2 general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu  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, "in the course of his  
5 employment" encompasses such individual's departure from such  
6 individual's place of abode to duty, such individual's duty, and the  
7 return to such individual's place of abode after duty;

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

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

16 (iii) For a telecommunicator, as defined in section 28-30, (I) when a  
17 telecommunicator is subject to emergency calls while off duty by the  
18 terms of such telecommunicator's employment, (II) when responding to  
19 a direct order to appear at such telecommunicator's work assignment  
20 under circumstances in which nonessential employees are excused from  
21 working, or (III) following two or more mandatory overtime work shifts  
22 on consecutive days, "in the course of his employment" encompasses  
23 such individual's departure from such individual's place of abode  
24 directly to duty, such individual's duty, and the return directly to such  
25 individual's place of abode after duty;

26 [(iii)] (iv) Notwithstanding the provisions of clauses (i) and (ii) of this  
27 subparagraph, the dependents of any deceased employee of the  
28 Department of Correction who was injured in the course of his  
29 employment, as defined in this subparagraph, on or after July 1, 2000,  
30 and who died not later than July 15, 2000, shall be paid compensation  
31 on account of the death, in accordance with the provisions of section 31-  
32 306, retroactively to the date of the employee's death. The cost of the  
33 payment shall be paid by the employer or its insurance carrier which  
34 shall be reimbursed for such cost from the Second Injury Fund as  
35 provided in section 31-354 upon presentation of any vouchers and  
36 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)

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 <sup>1</sup> - Potential Cost	See Below	See Below

**Explanation**

The bill expands conditions under which certain employees can apply for Workers' Compensation benefits. To the extent this produces an increase in medical and indemnity claims, the bill will result in a potential cost to the state and self-insured municipalities, beginning in FY 24.

House "A" eliminates the original bill and its associated fiscal impact, and results in the impact described above.

**The Out Years**

The annualized ongoing fiscal impact identified above would

<sup>1</sup> 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.

continue into the future subject to inflation and the number of eligible employees who apply for Worker's Compensation benefits.

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**OLR Bill Analysis****sHB 6721 (as amended by House "A")\******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) in three situations: (1) when they are subject to emergency calls while off duty by the terms of their employment, (2) when they are responding to a direct order to appear at their work assignment when nonessential employees are excused from working, or (3) after working two or more mandatory overtime shifts on consecutive days.

With “portal-to-portal” coverage, an injury that occurs while the employee is travelling directly between his or her home and workplace is deemed to have occurred in the course of the employee’s employment, making him or her eligible to receive workers’ compensation benefits for the injury. Existing law provides portal-to-portal coverage to police officers and firefighters whenever they are travelling directly between home and work. It also provides portal-to-portal coverage to Department of Correction employees when they are responding to a direct order to appear at their work assignment when nonessential employees are excused from working or after they have worked two or more mandatory overtime shifts on consecutive days.

\*House Amendment “A” replaces the underlying bill, which would have given the dispatchers portal-to-portal coverage whenever they were travelling directly between home and work.

EFFECTIVE DATE: October 1, 2023

**COMMITTEE ACTION**

Labor and Public Employees Committee

Joint Favorable Substitute

Yea 10 Nay 1 (02/28/2023)

Appropriations Committee

Joint Favorable

Yea 44 Nay 7 (05/01/2023)