

# Labor and Public Employees Committee

## JOINT FAVORABLE REPORT

**Bill No:** HB-5384 / [Bill Status](#) / [Public Hearing Testimony](#)

AN ACT CONCERNING HAZARD PENSIONS FOR CERTAIN JUDICIAL  
**Title:** EMPLOYEES.

**Vote Date:** 3/12/2026

**Vote Action:** Joint Favorable

**PH Date:** 3/3/2026

**File No.:**

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### SPONSORS OF BILL:

Labor & Public Employees Committee.

### REASONS FOR BILL:

The reason for this bill is to ensure that investigators who work within the judicial branch are able to receive hazard pensions. These jobs are often dangerous and expose workers to greater than average risks during the course of performing their duties. Specifically, it would make hazard pensions applicable to investigators in the Division of Criminal Justice or Division of Public Defender Services, and support service investigators in the Superior Court's Support Enforcement Services.

### RESPONSE FROM ADMINISTRATION/AGENCY:

None provided.

### NATURE AND SOURCES OF SUPPORT:

**Jose Tulisano, Support Enforcement Officer, AFSCME Local 749:** Submitted testimony in support stating in their duties they frequently are in direct interaction with individuals involved in criminal matters or high conflict family situations. The work carries safety risk, and the bill would ensure employees are treated equitably. They state that the bill would support recruitment and retention and allow for a strong experienced workforce.

**Dennis Martinez, Support Enforcement Investigator, AFSCME Local 749:** Submitted testimony in support stating they believe the role of Support Enforcement Services Investigator should get an upgrade to receive hazardous duty status. In practice they act as

agents of the court and their job description notes that incumbents may be exposed to risk of injury from assaultive or abusive clients.

**Ed Hawthorne, President, Connecticut AFL-CIO:** Submitted testimony in support stating the bill adds investigators of the Division of Public Defender Services, and Division of Criminal Justice and Support, to the definition of "hazardous duty member".

**Michael Barry, Coordinator, CT COAL for Retirement Security:** Submitted testimony in support stating these jobs are becoming increasingly more difficult and dangerous. Many of the homes where investigators are serving papers or doing investigations on behalf of defendants have residents who have criminal histories. He explains that these benefits would not be free as they would have to contribute 3-4% more to their pensions. They want those employees to feel safe in their jobs and continue in state service until they can retire with dignity.

**Michael Adams, Legislative Assistant, AFSCME Council 4:** Submitted testimony in support explaining the bill provides hazardous duty pension coverage to a group of state workers who often put themselves in dangerous environments every day. Mr. Adams states the only member of there who has been shot on the job during his time was a state marshal and this bill would apply to them.

#### **NATURE AND SOURCES OF OPPOSITION:**

None provided.

**Reported by: Lawrence Sanchez**

**Date: Olivia Buczak**