

OLR BILL ANALYSIS

HB 5016 (LCO 545)

**AN ACT IMPLEMENTING THE GOVERNOR'S
RECOMMENDATIONS CONCERNING GENERAL GOVERNMENT**

§§ 1-8—TEACHERS' RETIREMENT BOARD

This bill moves the Teachers' Retirement Board ("board" or "TRB") into the Retirement Division of the Comptroller's Office and makes technical and conforming changes. Under current law, TRB is an independent, separate agency. (HB 5014 makes corresponding budget changes.)

It makes the comptroller the board's nonvoting, ex-officio secretary; transfers board responsibilities to the comptroller; and requires the Comptroller's Office to provide the board with secretarial support. It removes the board's authority to hire a secretary and clerical assistance.

Health Insurance for Retired Teachers

By law, whether a retired teacher participates in Medicare determines how he or she receives health insurance coverage. Those who participate in Medicare are eligible for a Medicare supplement plan from the TRB. Those who do not participate in Medicare are eligible for insurance through their last employing board of education.

TRB Plan Participants. Under current law, the board must offer health insurance to a retired teacher and his or her spouse (or disabled dependent if there is no spouse) who receives Medicare ("plan enrollee"). (It does this by offering a Medicare supplement insurance plan.) The bill eliminates this requirement and instead requires the comptroller to offer such insurance.

The bill increases, from 33 1/3% to 42% of the premium equivalent, the amount a plan enrollee must pay for coverage.

It decreases the amount the state must appropriate for the coverage. Under existing law, the state appropriates to the board 33 1/3% of the cost. The bill instead requires the state to appropriate to the

comptroller 25% of the plan cost.

Municipal Subsidy Group. For retirees who do not participate in Medicare, their last employing board of education (or the state, as applicable), by law, must offer them health insurance coverage that is the same as is offered to active teachers. The bill requires the comptroller, instead of the board, to pay a subsidy to the board of education or state on behalf of such an enrollee. By law, the subsidy equals the amount paid in FY 2000 (\$110 per person per month, except for certain retirees the subsidy is \$220) and cannot exceed the actual insurance cost. The bill decreases the amount the state must appropriate for the subsidy. It requires the state to appropriate to the comptroller, instead of the board, 25%, instead of 33 1/3% of the subsidy. The balance of the subsidy comes from the health insurance premium cost account ("TRB Health Fund"), which includes active teachers' contributions, among other revenue sources.

§§ 9-13—COMMISSION ON MEDICOLEGAL INVESTIGATIONS AND OFFICE OF THE CHIEF MEDICAL EXAMINER

The bill transfers the Commission on Medicolegal Investigations (COMLI) and the Office of the Chief Medical Examiner (OCME) to the University of Connecticut (UConn) and makes associated technical and conforming changes. Under current law, COMLI is within the Department of Public Health for administrative purposes only. OCME must be located at a state medical school (currently UConn) under the commission's control and supervision. Under the bill, COMLI retains its independent decision-making authority, membership composition, and supervision but not control of OCME (see BACKGROUND).

The bill requires the Chief Medical Examiner, at COMLI's request, to consult with UConn's vice president and chief financial officer when preparing to transmit estimates of expenditure requirements to the Office of Policy and Management secretary. It requires him to also do this when accounting the office's receivables and expenditures to the state treasurer.

The bill requires, rather than allows, OCME to maintain a laboratory at UConn. It continues to allow the office to maintain additional laboratories in collaboration with a medical school, hospital, or agency with facilities that can be used in performing its duties. It requires such collaboration to be determined by an agreement between UConn and COMLI, rather than at COMLI's discretion.

EFFECTIVE DATE: July 1, 2012

BACKGROUND

COMLI

COMLI is nine-member, independent administrative commission within the Department of Public Health (DPH) for administrative purposes only. Its members include two pathology professors, two law professors, a Connecticut Medical Society member, a Connecticut Bar Association member, two public members, and the DPH commissioner. The Office of the Chief Medical Examiner operates under the control and supervision of COMLI.

§ 14—MEDICARE AND MEDICAID BILLING

The bill conforms state law to current practice by requiring the administrative services commissioner to investigate, determine, bill, and collect all charges for services covered under Medicaid or Medicare for people aided, cared for, or treated by the Department of Veterans' Affairs.

EFFECTIVE DATE: July 1, 2012

§§ 15-48—DAS/DCS MERGER

This bill dissolves the Department of Construction Services (DCS) and transfers its powers and duties to the Department of Administrative Services (DAS). The bill makes numerous technical and conforming changes to implement this merger. If any of the departments' orders or regulations conflict, the bill allows the DAS commissioner to implement policies or procedures to resolve the conflict while adopting the policies and procedures in regulation.

DCS's duties and responsibilities that the bill transfers include:

1. administering most state capital improvement construction and planning projects;
2. selecting consultants to assist on such projects;
3. providing technical advice and services to agencies planning to improve their physical space;
4. assisting with the development of a capital program and budget for the state;
5. enforcing the state's building and fire safety codes; and
6. administering the school construction grant process, with

assistance from the State Department of Education (SDE).

EFFECTIVE DATE: July 1, 2012

BACKGROUND

Department of Construction Services

PA 11-51 dissolved the Department of Public Works and transferred its (1) construction and construction management functions to DCS and (2) all of its other functions to DAS. The act also (1) transferred, from the former Department of Public Safety to DCS, the Office of the State Building Inspector and the Office of the State Fire Marshal, making DCS responsible for enforcing the State Building Code and the Fire Safety Code, and (2) divided, between DCS and SDE, responsibility for the school construction grant process.

§ 49—RESOURCES RECOVERY FACILITY COSTS

The bill requires the owner of a resources recovery facility, rather than the General Fund, to pay for (1) all, rather than just specified, costs of testing the facility and (2) any other activities eligible for payment. Under current law, the owner is responsible only for costs associated with:

1. continuous meteorological and emissions monitoring required by law,
2. performance testing required to obtain an initial operating permit,
3. performance testing needed for a new or amended construction or operating permit, and
4. special testing required to demonstrate compliance with any permit when the Department of Energy and Environmental Protection commissioner believes the facility does not comply with the permit.

Resources recovery facilities separate marketable wastes from the waste stream and burn the remainder to produce electricity.

EFFECTIVE DATE: July 1, 2012

§§ 50-67 & 94-96—STATE HOUSING PROGRAMS

The bill:

1. establishes an Office of Housing within the Department of Economic and Community Development (DECD);
2. transfers, from the Office of Policy and Management (OPM) to DECD, responsibility for administering the Renters' Tax Relief Program;
3. transfers, from the Department of Social Services (DSS) to DECD, responsibility for administering several state housing programs; and
4. changes certain incentive housing zone (IHZ) payments and procedures under Connecticut's Housing for Economic Growth Program.

EFFECTIVE DATE: July 1, 2012

§§ 50-53 & 94-96—Renters' Tax Relief Program for the Elderly and Individuals with Disabilities

The bill transfers, from OPM to DECD, responsibility for administering the Renters' Tax Relief Program for the elderly and individuals with disabilities. However, OPM retains reporting and enforcement authority for the program. DECD must report annually to OPM, on or before January 2, so that the office can meet programmatic reporting requirements.

By law, the Renters' Tax Relief Program provides state grants to low-income elderly and certain people with disabilities to reimburse them for a portion of their rent and utilities. The amount of the grant varies according to income.

Currently, claimants aggrieved by a decision concerning their program eligibility or rebate amount have the right to request reconsideration by OPM under a uniform administrative review procedure for certain state-reimbursed property tax exemptions. Thereafter they may appeal to superior court. The bill instead gives claimants the right to request reconsideration by DECD and thereafter, appeal under the Uniform Administrative Procedure Act. DECD must treat the request for reconsideration as a contested case.

Under the bill, OPM continues to administer the Circuit Breaker Tax Relief and Local Option Property Tax Relief programs.

§§ 54-61—General Housing Assistance

The bill generally makes DECD, rather than DSS, responsible for administering the state's:

1. homeless assistance programs, including services for emergency shelters, transitional housing, permanent housing, and homelessness prevention (§ 54);
2. security deposit guarantee program (§ 55);
3. housing program for people suffering from AIDS (§ 56);
4. rent bank program for families whose income does not exceed 60% of the state median income (§ 57);
5. assessment and mediation program for families at risk of becoming homeless or in danger of eviction or foreclosure whose income does not exceed 60% of the state median income (§ 58);
6. homefinders program for families that are homeless or in danger of foreclosure or eviction (§ 59);
7. emergency housing special needs benefit for certain recipients of Temporary Family Assistance (TFA) or the State Supplement to Supplemental Security (SSI) Income who cannot remain in permanent housing (§ 60); and
8. direct vendor payments to landlords for TFA or SSI recipients who mismanage their funds (§§ 60 & 61).

DSS retains control over certain other housing programs, including (1) fuel and weatherization assistance programs and (2) transitional private housing rental assistance for certain individuals leaving the TFA program.

§§ 62-64—Rental Assistance Program

The bill makes DECD responsible for administering the Rental Assistance Program (RAP) for low-income families living in private housing. Additionally, DECD instead of DSS administers the (1) emergency rental assistance component for families living in hotels or motels and (2) five-year pilot rental assistance program (established in 1988) for people living in newly created, privately-owned rental housing. However DSS remains responsible for modifying the RAP subsidy in order to operate the program within available appropriations.

§§ 65-66—IHZs

Connecticut's Housing for Economic Growth Program authorizes grants to municipalities that choose to zone land for developing housing mainly where transit facilities, infrastructure, and complementary uses already exist or have been planned or proposed. A municipality may receive the incentives only after it has established an IHZ and approved incentive housing developments (IHD) in the zone.

The bill gives OPM more discretion over IHZ adoption grants it awards to municipalities. Specifically, it allows OPM to award a grant of up to \$50,000, rather than up to \$2,000 for each housing unit that can be built on developable land in the zone based on the law's minimum as-of-right densities. The bill also prohibits a municipality that receives a zone adoption grant from receiving a subsequent grant until construction starts in the IHZ for which it received the previous grant.

The bill allows a municipality that applies for preliminary eligibility for a zone adoption grant to subsequently waive its right to receive the payment by providing OPM its written notice of intent to do so. It must submit this notice when it submits the statement that its zoning commission adopted IHZ regulations and design standards.

Finally, the bill eliminates the deadline by which OPM must make one-time building permit grant payments to municipalities for each building permit they issue in an IHD. Currently, OPM must pay these grants no later than 60 days after (1) a municipality submits proof that it issued the permits for the IHD within five years after it adopted the IHZ regulations and (2) it verifies that no one appealed or challenged the building permit.

§ 68—INMATE RELEASE TO A NURSING HOME

The bill gives the Department of Correction (DOC) commissioner discretion to release an inmate to a licensed community-based nursing home under contract with the state to provide the inmate with palliative and end-of-life care if the DOC medical director determines that the inmate is:

1. suffering from a terminal condition, disease, or syndrome; and
2. so debilitated or incapacitated that he or she (a) requires continuous palliative or end-of-life care or (b) is physically incapable of presenting a danger to society.

The bill prohibits this release for an inmate convicted of a capital felony.

As a condition of release, the DOC commissioner can require the medical director to periodically review the inmate's diagnosis after release. The bill requires DOC to return the inmate to custody if the medical director determines that he or she no longer meets the release criteria.

The bill requires DOC to supervise the inmate in the community.

By law, the Board of Pardons and Paroles can grant an inmate, other than one convicted of a capital felony, a compassionate parole release if he or she:

1. is physically incapable of presenting a danger to society because he or she is physically or mentally debilitated; incapacitated or infirm because of advanced age; or has a non-terminal condition, disease, or syndrome and
2. has served at least half of his sentence or half of his remaining sentence after the board commuted his original sentence.

A person granted compassionate parole release is subject to terms and conditions set by the board and is supervised by DOC.

EFFECTIVE DATE: July 1, 2012

§ 69—STATE-WIDE TOURISM MARKETING ACCOUNT

The bill requires year-end fund balances in the state-wide tourism marketing account to revert to the general fund. Under current law, the balances remain in the account and are carried forward to the next fiscal year.

The bill allows the economic and community development commissioner to use an unspecified portion of the account's funds to only fund various tourism activities. Specifically, she may grant the funds to public and private organizations that plan or implement artistic, cultural, or tourism-related programs in Connecticut or that promote, develop, or encourage artistic, cultural, or tourism-related activity here.

The bill does not specify how the commissioner may use the account for other purposes. Under current law, she must use it to implement the state-wide marketing plan. Under the bill, she can no

longer use the account for this purpose.

EFFECTIVE DATE: July 1, 2012

§ 70—PAYMENTS IN LIEU OF TAXES FOR MASHANTUCKET PEQUOT AND MOHEGAN LAND

The bill requires the state to make payments in lieu of taxes (PILOT) for certain land the federal government took into trust for the Mashantucket Pequot Tribal Nation and the Mohegan Tribe of Indians. Under current law, the state makes an annual PILOT payments for land the federal government took into trust for the former on or after June 8, 1999 and that was in the 1983 Settlement boundary. The payment equals 100% of the property taxes that would have been paid on this land.

The bill provides a 45% pilot for:

1. Mashantucket Pequot land the federal government took into trust for the tribe before June 8, 1999 and that was designated within the 1983 Settlement boundary and
2. Mohegan Tribe land the federal government took into trust for that tribe.

The pilot applies to the value of the land, excluding the assessed value of structures, buildings, and improvements. It is phases in the 45% payment over five years according to the following schedule:

1. 10% for FY 13,
2. 35% for FY 14,
3. 60% for FY 15,
4. 85% for FY 16, and
5. 100% for FY 17 and subsequent fiscal years.

By law, the state must prorate this and the other PILOT amounts if the total value of the grants exceeds the budgeted amount.

EFFECTIVE DATE: July 1, 2012

§ 71—STATE GRANTS FOR IMPROVING PROPERTY TAX ASSESSMENT AND COLLECTION PRACTICES

The bill prohibits the Office of Policy and Management secretary from accepting or approving municipal grant applications for improving how property taxes are assessed and collected.

EFFECTIVE DATE: July 1, 2012

§§ 72-73—FUNDING FOR REGIONAL PLANNING ORGANIZATIONS

The bill taps the regional performance incentive account to make annual and supplemental payments to regional planning organizations (RPOs). Under current law, the account funds grants to municipalities for delivering an existing service on a regional basis. Also under current law, RPOs receive formula grants funded by General Fund appropriations.

The bill requires the funds for the RPO grants to be funded out of the money deposited in the fund specifically for those grants. The grant amounts must be determined according to current statutory formulae. The bill caps the total amount of grants for FY 13 at \$200,000.

The bill also requires the account to be used to fund the additional grants the law authorizes for two or more RPOs that propose to consolidate their organizations and correspondingly change their state-designated regional boundaries. The bill caps the total amount of grants at \$600,000 for FY 13 and terminates on June 30, 2013.

By law, there are three types of RPOs: regional councils of elected officials, regional councils of government, and regional planning organizations.

EFFECTIVE DATE: July 1, 2012

§§ 74-82—DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN RIGHTS, PROTECTION, AND ADVOCACY

This bill creates the Department of Human Rights, Protection, and Advocacy, and places into the department the (1) Commission on Human Rights and Opportunities (CHRO), (2) Office of Protection and Advocacy for Persons with Disabilities (OPA), and (3) Board of Protection and Advocacy for Persons with Disabilities (a board, appointed by the governor, that advises OPA's director). Under current law, CHRO is within the Department of Administrative Services for administrative purposes only and OPA is an independent state agency.

Under the bill, the new department is headed by an executive director. The executive director generally assumes the powers and duties that CHRO's executive director has under current law. The bill retains a separate director for OPA, but changes the appointment process, vests some of the director's current authority in the department's executive director, and requires the director to receive the executive director's approval for specified fiscal matters.

While the bill transfers most of CHRO's current powers and duties to the new department, it retains certain responsibilities for CHRO, such as administering affirmative action plans submitted by state agencies and public works contractors.

The bill provides that any of CHRO's or OPA's orders, decisions, agreed settlements, or regulations in force on July 1, 2012 continue as an order, decision, agreed settlement, or regulation of the department until amended, repealed, or superseded.

The bill also makes minor, technical, and conforming changes.

EFFECTIVE DATE: July 1, 2012, except for certain provisions relating to (1) the executive director's appointment and term and (2) certain powers and duties of the executive director (such as appointing deputy directors), which are effective from passage.

Department Executive Director

Under the bill, the governor appoints the new department's executive director in accordance with the law governing appointments of agency heads and the provisions described below. The executive director has the powers and duties of an agency head. By July 1, 2012, CHRO must recommend someone to the governor for appointment as the department's executive director. Under current law, CHRO appoints its own executive director, who serves at CHRO's pleasure.

The executive director's term is the same as the governor's term. The commission must recommend someone for the governor to appoint when the initial term expires, and any time after that when there is a vacancy.

CHRO Powers

Under the bill, the nine-member CHRO remains in existence, as part of the new department. While the bill vests most of CHRO's current duties and authorities in the department, it retains a role for CHRO. As noted above, CHRO must recommend to the governor a potential

appointee as executive director. As under current law, the executive director needs the approval of CHRO's members to remove a deputy director (§ 77).

The bill requires the department to consult with CHRO in establishing and maintaining offices as CHRO deems necessary. The bill allows the department to organize itself as necessary without requiring it to have separate divisions for (1) affirmative action monitoring and contract compliance and (2) discriminatory practice complaints, as is required under current law for CHRO. The bill eliminates the requirement that one CHRO legal counsel serve as supervisory attorney (§ 78).

The bill transfers to the department CHRO's current role to help state entities with 25 or more full-time employees develop and implement affirmative action plans. But the bill retains CHRO's current role regarding (1) approval or disapproval of affirmative action plans submitted by such state entities, including issuing certificates of noncompliance for such plans (§ 79 and CGS § 46a-68a) and (2) approval or disapproval of certain public works contractors' affirmative action plans, issuing certificates of compliance for such plans, and such contractors' compliance reports (CGS §§ 46a-68c to -68g). The bill also retains the current requirement that CHRO adopt regulations for certain matters, including provisions related to (1) certificates of noncompliance related to state entity affirmative action plans (CGS § 46a-68a), (2) state agencies using their own compliance programs (CGS § 46a-68k), (3) affirmative action plans required for public works contracts (CGS §§ 46a-68b to -68j) and (4) nondiscrimination and affirmative action provisions in state contracts (CGS §§ 4a-60, 46a-68j).

There are some instances in the bill where CHRO's role within the new department is unclear, or where conforming changes are needed to clarify CHRO's role.

OPA and Advocacy Board

Under current law, the Office of Protection and Advocacy for Persons with Disabilities (OPA) is an independent state agency whose purpose is to protect and advocate for the rights of people with disabilities. The bill places OPA within the new department it creates.

The bill also places the Board of Protection and Advocacy for Persons with Disabilities (advocacy board) within the new department. By law, the 15-member advocacy board advises OPA's director on

matters relating to advocacy policy, client service priorities, and issues affecting persons with disabilities.

The bill changes the appointment process for OPA's director. It vests appointment authority in the new department's executive director, rather than in the governor, and requires the advocacy board to recommend a potential appointee.

The bill eliminates the authority of the OPA director to hire staff. It also eliminates the OPA director's authority to adopt regulations subject to the advocacy board's approval. Instead, it allows the OPA director to recommend the adoption of regulations, subject to approval by the advocacy board and the new department's executive director.

Under current law, among other things, OPA's director may do the following, within available appropriations: (1) purchase or contract for legal services or other necessary services and (2) receive and spend moneys in specified forms (e.g., grants) pursuant to the purposes of the OPA law. Under the bill, OPA's director needs the approval of the department's executive director to do either of these things.

BACKGROUND

Related Bill

HB 5014 (§ 1) adjusts the FY 13 budget to reflect the merger described above.

§§ 83-93—WORKERS' COMPENSATION COMMISSION

The bill places the Workers' Compensation Commission (WCC) within the Labor Department (DOL) and transfers several responsibilities from the WCC chairperson to the labor commissioner. It relieves the WCC chairperson of numerous responsibilities without explicitly giving them to the labor commissioner, or any other official, and creates new powers and duties for the labor commissioner and DOL.

The bill also:

1. requires the WCC chairperson, in consultation with the labor commissioner, to combine WCC district offices with DOL offices whenever possible;
2. makes the labor commissioner the chairperson of the workers' compensation advisory board;

3. transfers the WCC statistical division's responsibilities to the DOL;
4. transfers certain funding allocations regarding occupational health clinics from the WCC to the DOL;
5. changes the responsibilities of the compensation review board chairperson; and
6. transfers responsibility for educating employees about compensation related issues from the WCC to the DOL.

EFFECTIVE DATE: July 1, 2012

WCC Chairperson's Responsibilities

The bill removes numerous administrative responsibilities from the WCC chairperson. It explicitly transfers some of these to the labor commissioner and changes many others into a requirement to consult with the labor commissioner, however, numerous responsibilities taken from the WCC chairperson are not explicitly given to the labor commissioner or any other official. It is unclear if the labor commissioner can assume these duties without the explicit authorization currently provided to the WCC chairperson.

The bill also creates new responsibilities for the labor commissioner which the WCC chairperson does not currently have.

Responsibilities transferred from the WCC chairperson to the labor commissioner. The responsibilities the bill transfers from the WCC chairperson to the labor commissioner include duties to:

1. establish standards, in consultation with the workers' compensation advisory board, for approving various attorney and healthcare provider fees;
2. submit an annual estimated budget of WCC expenditures to the comptroller (current limits on exceeding this budget remain in place); and
3. determine, in consultation with the WCC chair, the amount to be assessed on employers to pay for WCC expenses, rehabilitative services, worker education programs, and occupational health clinic programs.

WCC chairperson's requirement to consult or recommend. Among

other things, current law requires the WCC chairperson to:

1. adopt an annual budget and operating plan in consultation with the workers' compensation advisory board;
2. establish an organization structure and divisions; and
3. establish policy for education, statistical support, and administrative appeals;

The bill relieves the WCC chairperson of these, and other, responsibilities and instead requires him or her to consult with, or make recommendations to, the labor commissioner on them. However, in several instances the bill does not authorize or require the commissioner to perform the duties instead of the WCC chairperson.

In addition, while current law allows the WCC chairperson to contract with consultants, the bill requires the chairperson to get approval from the labor commissioner before entering into such a contract.

Responsibilities taken from the WCC Chairperson but not transferred to another official. The bill relieves the WCC chairperson of the following responsibilities, but does not transfer them to the labor commissioner, or any other official:

1. allocate WCC resources;
2. establish policy for all matters under WCC jurisdiction;
3. establish procedures for hiring, dismissing, disciplining, and promoting WCC employees;
4. direct and supervise all WCC administrative affairs;
5. assign and reassign district managers and other staff to WCC district offices.

It is unclear if the labor commissioner can assume these responsibilities without further authorization.

Labor commissioner's new powers & duties. In addition to the powers and duties removed from the WCC chairperson, the bill also requires the labor commissioner to assume the following responsibilities which the WCC chairperson does not currently have:

1. provide the WCC chairperson with staff;
2. receive the biannual evaluations of compensation commissioners (under current law, unchanged by the bill, the WCC chairperson prepares the evaluations and provides them to the governor and Judiciary Committee); and
3. chair the workers' compensation advisory board.

Workers' Compensation Advisory Board

By law, the workers' compensation advisory board advises the WCC chairperson on compensation policy and the operation of the commission. It also makes recommendations to the governor and General Assembly regarding the reappointment of each compensation commissioner. The board's eight appointed members select a ninth member, who must be impartial, to serve as the chairperson.

The bill ends the advisory board's ability to select its own chairperson and instead makes the labor commissioner chairperson. It also removes the WCC chairperson's ability to call board meetings. Current law allows either the WCC chairperson, who is not a member of the advisory board, or the board's chair to call for a meeting of the board. Under the bill, only the board's chair (the labor commissioner) can call for a meeting.

WCC Statistical Division

Current law requires the WCC to have a statistical division which is charged with compiling, maintaining, and publishing data on occupational injuries and diseases, voluntary agreements, and the status of compensation claims. The bill deletes the requirement for a WCC statistical division and makes the DOL responsible for its duties. It specifies that the staff conducting them will be funded by the Administrative Costs Fund. (The fund is supported by an assessment on employers to cover WCC expenses.) The bill also deletes the statutorily required statistical division director position.

The law requires the WCC Statistical Division, in cooperation with the WCC Division of Worker Education, to educate unions, employers, and individual workers on occupational disease detection methods. The bill transfers this responsibility to the DOL, but no longer requires the WCC Division of Worker Education to participate.

Occupational Health Clinics

The bill changes how funds appropriated for occupational health clinic programs are allocated and the requirements for clinics applying for grants. Under current law, appropriations for occupational health clinic programs are divided between the health clinics (45%), auxiliary health clinics (20%), the WCC statistical division (15%), the DOL (10%), and the Department of Public Health (10%). The bill transfers the WCC's allocation to the DOL to support the DOL's assumption of the duties previously held by the WCC Statistical Division.

By law, occupational health clinics applying for grants must meet numerous requirements to qualify for these grants, including cooperating with various state agencies, including the WCC and the DOL. The bill removes the WCC from the list of agencies with which a clinic must cooperate, but keeps the DOL.

Compensation Review Board (CRB)

The CRB is a three-member panel of workers' compensation commissioners that hears appeals of workers' compensation cases. Under current law, the WCC chairperson is chief of the board and responsible for its operations. Under the bill, the WCC chairperson remains as CRB chief, but is no longer explicitly responsible for its operations. The bill does not specify who assumes responsibility for CRB operations

Education Services

The bill transfers, from the WCC to the DOL, the responsibility for educating employees on compensation related issues, but the WCC retains the ability to adopt regulations regarding these educational services.