

(NEW) (c) If, upon investigation of a complaint or inspection of information available to the workers' compensation commission, a commissioner has reason to believe that an employer is not in compliance with the insurance and self-insurance requirements of subsection (b) of section 31-284, the commissioner shall conduct a hearing, after sufficient notice to the employer, wherein the employer shall be required to present sufficient evidence of his compliance with said requirements. Whenever the commissioner finds that the employer is not in compliance with said requirements he may assess a civil penalty of not more than one thousand dollars against the employer. Any appeal of a penalty assessed pursuant to this subsection shall be taken in accordance with the provisions of section 31-301.

Sec. 2. (NEW) (a) If any civil penalty imposed pursuant to any provision of chapter 568 of the general statutes, as amended by section 1 of this act, is not paid within ninety days of its imposition by a workers' compensation commissioner, or within ninety days of the final disposition of an appeal, as the case may be, the chairman of the board of compensation commissioners shall immediately notify the attorney general of such failure to pay. Upon such notification, the attorney general may bring a civil action in the name of the state of Connecticut in the superior court for the judicial district where the workers' compensation commissioner imposed the civil penalty, to recover double the amount of the civil penalty together with reasonable attorney's fees and costs as taxed by the court. Any recovery under this section shall be disbursed in the same manner as recoveries pursuant to section 31-355 of the general statutes.

(b) An affidavit sworn to or affirmed by the chairman of the board of compensation commissioners, or by the workers' compensation commissioner who imposed the civil penalty referred to in the affidavit, stating the name of the workers' compensation commissioner who imposed the civil penalty, the amount of the civil penalty, the name of the violator against whom the civil penalty was imposed, whether or not an appeal was taken, the disposition of the appeal and whether or not the penalty was paid, shall constitute prima facie proof of the facts contained in the affidavit. Copies of the records of the commission, or of any workers' compensation commissioner, certified by said chairman or by the workers' compensation commissioner having custody of the records, containing the name of the workers' compensation commissioner who imposed a civil penalty, the amount of the civil penalty, the name of the violator against whom the civil penalty was imposed, whether or not an appeal was taken, the disposition of the appeal and whether or not the penalty was paid, shall constitute prima facie proof of the facts contained in the records.

(c) Civil actions pursuant to this section shall be privileged in their assignment for trial.

Substitute House Bill No. 5064

PUBLIC ACT NO. 86-175

AN ACT ESTABLISHING A DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS' AFFAIRS.

Section 1. (NEW) (a) There shall be a department of veterans' affairs. The department head shall be the commissioner of veterans' affairs,

who shall be appointed by the governor in accordance with the provisions of sections 4-5 to 4-8, inclusive, of the general statutes, with the powers and duties prescribed therein.

(b) The department may maintain offices upon the grounds of the veterans' home and hospital in Rocky Hill. It shall have a staff of not less than eight men and women, including six service officers, one of whom shall be the department head, and clerical personnel. The department head and the other service officers shall be veterans as defined in section 27-103 of the general statutes. At least one of the service officers shall be a woman having a demonstrated interest in the concerns of women veterans, who shall be responsible for addressing those concerns. Each service officer shall successfully complete a course in veterans' benefits within one year of commencement of employment and shall be assigned to one of the six congressional districts of the state.

(c) Duties of the department shall include, but not be limited to, the following:

(1) Preparing studies and collecting information concerning facilities and services available to members of the armed forces, veterans, their spouses or eligible dependents;

(2) Conducting interviews in the nursing homes or hospitals throughout the state to determine the number of veterans admitted and ascertaining which benefits such veterans are currently receiving and are entitled to receive;

(3) Cooperating with service agencies and organizations throughout the state in disseminating and furnishing counsel and assistance of benefit to residents of this state who are or have been members of the armed forces, their spouses or eligible dependents, which will indicate the availability of: (A) Educational training and retraining facilities; (B) health, medical, rehabilitation and housing services and facilities; (C) employment and reemployment services; (D) provisions of federal, state and local laws affording financial rights, privileges and benefits; and (E) other matters of similar nature;

(4) Assisting veterans, their spouses or eligible dependents in the preparation, presentation, proof and establishment of such claims, privileges, rights and other benefits accruing to them under federal, state and local laws; and

(5) Cooperating with all national, state and local governmental and private agencies securing or offering services or any benefits to veterans, their spouses or dependents.

Sec. 2. Section 4-5 of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof:

As used in section 4-6, section 4-7 and section 4-8, the term "department head" means secretary of the office of policy and management, commissioner of administrative services, commissioner of revenue services, commissioner on aging, banking commissioner, commissioner of children and youth services, commissioner of consumer protection, commissioner of correction, commissioner of economic development, state board of education, commissioner of environmental protection, commissioner of agriculture, commissioner of health services, commissioner of housing, insurance commissioner, labor commissioner,

liquor control commission, commissioner of mental health, commissioner of public safety, commissioner of income maintenance, commissioner of human resources, commissioner of mental retardation, commissioner of motor vehicles, commissioner of transportation, COMMISSIONER OF VETERANS' AFFAIRS and the chairperson of the public utilities control authority.

Sec. 3. Section 4-38c of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof:

There shall be within the executive branch of state government the following departments: Office of policy and management, department of administrative services, department of revenue services, department on aging, banking department, department of agriculture, department of children and youth services, department of consumer protection, department of correction, department of economic development, state board of education, department of environmental protection, department of health services, board of governors of higher education, insurance department, labor department, department of liquor control, department of mental health, department of mental retardation, department of public safety, department of income maintenance, department of human resources, department of housing, department of transportation, department of motor vehicles, DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS' AFFAIRS and department of public utility control.

Sec. 4. This act shall take effect July 1, 1986.

Substitute House Bill No. 5826

PUBLIC ACT NO. 86-176

AN ACT CONCERNING THE ESTABLISHMENT OF BRANCH OFFICES BY BANKS.

Section 1. Section 36-59 of the general statutes is amended by adding subsection (8) as follows:

(NEW) (8) (a) The provisions of subdivision (b) of subsection (1) of this section restricting the establishment of branch offices shall not apply: (1) On or after October 1, 1986 to (A) any state bank and trust company which applies to locate a branch in any town in the state, if such state bank and trust company has total assets less than three hundred fifty million dollars, or (B) any state bank and trust company which applies to locate a branch in any town in the state with a population of one hundred thousand or more as determined by the 1980 United States Census; (2) on or after October 1, 1987 to (A) any state bank and trust company which applies to locate a branch in any town in the state, if such state bank and trust company has total assets less than seven hundred fifty million dollars, or (B) any state bank and trust company which applies to locate a branch in any town in the state with a population of sixty thousand or more as determined by the 1980 United States Census; or (3) on or after October 1, 1988, to any state bank and trust company which applies to locate a branch in any town in the state.