



# House of Representatives

General Assembly

**File No. 302**

January Session, 2025

House Bill No. 6408

*House of Representatives, March 27, 2025*

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 bill ought to pass.

## ***AN ACT EXPANDING COMPENSATION TO DEPENDENTS FOR A DEATH RESULTING FROM AN ACCIDENT.***

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

1 Section 1. Subdivision (6) of subsection (a) of section 31-306 of the  
2 general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu  
3 thereof (*Effective July 1, 2025*):

4 (6) In all cases where there are no presumptive dependents, but  
5 where there are (A) one or more persons wholly dependent in fact, the  
6 compensation in case of death shall be divided according to the relative  
7 degree of their dependence, or (B) next of kin of the deceased employee,  
8 the compensation shall be divided equally among the next of kin of the  
9 deceased employee. Compensation payable under this subdivision shall  
10 be paid for not more than three hundred and twelve weeks from the  
11 date of the death of the employee. The compensation, if paid to those  
12 wholly dependent in fact, shall be paid at the full compensation rate.  
13 The compensation, if paid to those partially dependent in fact upon the

14 deceased employee as of the date of the injury, shall not, in total, be more  
15 than the full compensation rate nor less than twenty dollars weekly, nor,  
16 if the average weekly sum contributed by the deceased at the date of the  
17 injury to those partially dependent in fact is more than twenty dollars  
18 weekly, not more than the sum so contributed.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	July 1, 2025	31-306(a)(6)

**LAB**      *Joint Favorable*

*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:**

<b>Agency Affected</b>	<b>Fund-Effect</b>	<b>FY 26 \$</b>	<b>FY 27 \$</b>
Department of Administrative Services - Workers' Comp. Claims	App Fund - Potential Cost	140,000	See Below

Note: App Fund=All Appropriated Funds

### **Municipal Impact:**

<b>Municipalities</b>	<b>Effect</b>	<b>FY 26 \$</b>	<b>FY 27 \$</b>
Various Municipalities	STATE MANDATE <sup>1</sup> - Potential Cost	See Below	See Below

## **Explanation**

The bill results in a potential cost to the Department of Administrative Services – Worker’s Compensation Claims and various self-insured municipalities beginning in FY 26 to the extent additional workers’ compensation benefits are provided to “next of kin” in the event an employee dies with no presumptive dependents (e.g., spouse or minor children).

There is a specific relevant claim which is impacted by this bill that may result in a total estimated cost of \$140,000 over six years beginning in FY 26. The workers’ compensation benefit of this claim has yet to be

<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.

determined and may vary significantly from this estimate.

***The Out Years***

The annualized ongoing fiscal impact identified above would continue into the future subject to inflation.

*Sources: Core-CT Financial Accounting System*

**OLR Bill Analysis****HB 6408*****AN ACT EXPANDING COMPENSATION TO DEPENDENTS FOR A DEATH RESULTING FROM AN ACCIDENT.*****SUMMARY**

Under current law, when employees with no presumptive dependents (e.g., spouse or minor children) die due to a work-related accident, anyone who was wholly dependent in fact upon them may receive their workers' compensation benefits. This bill also allows for these benefits, under those circumstances, to be divided equally among the deceased employee's next of kin (presumably, those who are not the employee's dependents). (The bill does not specify who qualifies as "next of kin," or which option must be used if the employee has next of kin who are not dependents and non-kin who are wholly dependent in fact.)

Under existing law, unchanged by the bill, these benefits may be paid for up to 312 weeks from the employee's death. Survivors who were wholly dependent in fact must be paid the full benefit rate, and benefits for those partially dependent in fact must be at least \$20 per week, but no more than the (1) full benefit rate or (2) average weekly amount that the deceased contributed to their support. (The bill does not specify a benefit rate for nondependent next of kin receiving benefits under the bill.)

EFFECTIVE DATE: July 1, 2025

**COMMITTEE ACTION**

Labor and Public Employees Committee

Joint Favorable

Yea 13    Nay 0    (03/13/2025)