

# **Labor and Public Employees Committee JOINT FAVORABLE REPORT**

**Bill No.:** HB-6413

AN ACT REQUIRING UNINSURED AND UNDERINSURED MOTORIST

**Title:** COVERAGE FOR DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION EMPLOYEES.

**Vote Date:** 3/20/2025

**Vote Action:** Joint Favorable

**PH Date:** 2/27/2025

**File No.:**

***Disclaimer:** The following JOINT FAVORABLE Report is prepared for the benefit of the members of the General Assembly, solely for purposes of information, summarization and explanation and does not represent the intent of the General Assembly or either chamber thereof for any purpose.*

## **SPONSORS OF BILL:**

Labor & Public Employees Committee

## **REASONS FOR BILL:**

The reason for this bill is to provide uninsured and underinsured motorist coverage for CT DOT employees who are working on roadways. This would provide them with a benefit similar to police officers who are hit by uninsured and underinsured drivers, and thus support the CT DOT crews working on roads in dangerous conditions.

## **RESPONSE FROM ADMINISTRATION/AGENCY:**

**Garrett Eucalitto, Connecticut Department of Transportation, Commissioner:** Mr. Eucalitto expressed his support for this bill on behalf of the Connecticut Department of Transportation. He explained that the State of Connecticut already provides insurance against uninsured and underinsured drivers to police officers that have to work on the road, and he expressed his opinion that given the ever-increasing danger of working in a CTDOT work zone, this benefit should be extended to CTDOT workers as well.

## **NATURE AND SOURCES OF SUPPORT:**

**Ed Hawthorne, President, Connecticut AFL-CIO:** Mr. Hawthorne expressed his support for this bill and pointed out the dedication of the Connecticut Department of Transportation's highway maintainers. He stated that reduced police presence and increased distractions on the road have made work zone more dangerous; less than a year ago, a 26-year-old highway maintainer named Andrew DiDomenico was killed by an uninsured driver. Mr. Hawthorne expressed his opinion that DOT employees should not have to risk their financial wellbeing – or that of their families – when they already risk their lives every day.

**Carl Chisem, President, Connecticut Employees Union Independent, SEIU Local 511:**

Mr. Chisem expressed his support for this bill and noted that if Andrew DiDomenico, a Department of Transportation employee who was killed by an uninsured drunk driver, had been hit by an insured driver then he would have received compensation. He expressed his opinion that DOT employees should not be penalized for being hit by an uninsured driver as opposed to an insured one.

**Travis Woodward, President, CSEA, SEIU Local 2001:** Mr. Woodward expressed his support for this bill, noting that as devastating as the death of Andrew DiDomenico was, it was only made worse by the fact that he was killed by an uninsured driver and, as a result, his family did not receive any compensation from insurance. He emphasized how dangerous working on the road is and that Department of Transportation employees should not be victims of those driving uninsured or underinsured vehicles.

**Ally Sexton, Treasurer, Administrative and Residual Employees Union:** Ms. Sexton expressed her support for this bill, stating that in her twenty-year tenure at the Connecticut Department of Transportation, three workers have died in the line of duty. She explained that because Andrew DiDomenico, who passed away in June of 2024, was killed by an uninsured driver, his family can only pursue the state minimum uninsured motorist benefits of \$25,000 before adjustments. She noted that offering DOT employees \$1 million for uninsured and underinsured benefits may be costly to the state, but ensuring that Connecticut's employees are financially protected on the roads is worth it.

**Connecticut Department of Transportation Employees:** Three workers with the Connecticut Department of Transportation expressed their support for this bill, stressing how dangerous the work done by them and their coworkers is. Testimony was provided by:

- Carmen Bazzano
- Ryan Martel
- Brandon Wilson

**Central CT Citizens:** Numerous citizens of central Connecticut collectively urged the committee to support this bill and expressed their support for employees who put their lives on the line every day.

**Deborah Masella:** Ms. Masella expressed her support this bill and her opinion that the current lack of uninsured and underinsured driver coverage for Department of Transportation employees is unfair. She noted the danger of working on the road and stated that they should be protected against uninsured and underinsured drivers.

108 individuals expressed general support for this bill and for the family of Andrew DiDomenico. Testimony was provided by:

- |                    |                     |                      |
|--------------------|---------------------|----------------------|
| •Arianna Avanzo    | •Jessica Black      | •Erin O'Connell      |
| •Melody Avery      | •Sally Bowman       | •Salvatore Cosentino |
| •Richard Barbierri | •Ruth Burchard      | •Donna Cossette      |
| •Karl Battick      | •Robbin Cabelus     | •Susan Culotta       |
| •Terry Battista    | •Cindy Cannata      | •Karen Dash          |
| •Henry Beecher     | •Heather Chirumbolo | •Alicia DiDominizio  |
| •Karen Bernetti    | •Juan Claudio       | •Kathryn Divaney     |

- Ryan Divaney
- Susan Divaney
- Derek Ezovski
- Cameron Fahey
- Diane Fahey
- Lisa Fahey
- Seanna Fahey
- John Farkash
- Lori Farkash
- Jennifer Gaffey
- Phillip Giglio
- Barbara Grignano
- Donna Gudelski
- J. Hope
- Jennifer Hunt
- Christine Kamenoff
- William Kamenoff
- Thomas Knowlton
- Carrie Korwnkiewicz
- David Lake
- Eric Lebaron
- Melissa Lombardi
- April Lunn
- Scott MacDonald
- Tyler Mach
- Amy Manware
- Michael Massimino
- Eoin McClure
- Kim Mierzejewski
- Lou Miller

- Maureen Miller
- Carrie Miranda
- Heather Miranda
- Bradley Moore
- Christine Moore
- Tracey Mudry
- Brook Murratti
- Erik Olson
- Jim Olson
- Lars Olson
- Lisa Olson
- Anthony Papallo
- Mary Beth Papallo
- Joseph Petraccion
- Stacey Porter
- Dina Prendergast
- Matthew Randazzo
- Cheryl Reilly
- Julian Vermund
- Nanette Hammond
- Lisa Cyr
- Alan Raymond
- William Gaviria II
- Cheryl Beedle
- Christian Soto Jr.
- David Stegos
- Kerry Roberts
- Kayla Roque
- Concerned Residents of CT

- Jennifer Rich
- James Rinaldi
- Carlos Rios
- Danielle Rios
- Robin Rios
- Paul Rizzo
- Ro Rodriguez
- Sylvia Russ
- Irmgard Sauntinez
- Jamie Schiopucie
- Joseph Seaman
- Ryan Segedi
- Jennifer Sheehan
- Tom Sienkowski
- Katherine Smith
- Jay Smolenski
- Laura Squillante
- Maureen Strillacci
- Henry Suzio, Vice President, L. Suzio York Hill Companies Inc.
- Blair Sylvia
- Syan Sylvia
- Richard Tabor
- Abigayil VanDeusen
- Alyssa Vasquez
- Kristina Viger
- Alexa Warren
- Joseph Warren
- Sandra White

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

None provided.

**Reported by: Sam Sims**

**Date: 4/1/2025**