

Labor and Public Employees Committee JOINT FAVORABLE REPORT

Bill No.: SB-1312

AN ACT IMPLEMENTING THE RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE LABOR

Title: DEPARTMENT.

Vote Date: 3/6/2025

Vote Action: Joint Favorable

PH Date: 2/20/2025

File No.: 173

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SPONSORS OF BILL:

Labor & Public Employees Committee

REASONS FOR BILL:

The reason for this bill is to implement various recommendations of the Department of Labor, including decreasing from 60 to 40 days the time that an employer has to file a protest of improper filing of unemployment benefits, to ensure that filings are more likely to occur within the same fiscal quarter. It also changes the unemployed workers' advocate position to full-time position in the state employee classified service and reinstates a requirement for physicians and advanced practice registered nurses to report suspected occupational diseases to the Labor Department, as well as making technical changes.

RESPONSE FROM ADMINISTRATION/AGENCY:

Danté Bartolomeo, Commissioner, Department of Labor: Supports the bill, lists off certain sections. Talks about Section 1 and what is in the section, states that less time is beneficial for employers. Adds in that implementing a 40-day time frame, CTDOL is better positioned to resolve these protests before the next quarter begins and says there is a benefit to the employer and that their liability expense for the contested claim will not be carried over into the next quarter. States Section 2 and says this change will provide continuity for consumers in need of this assistance and will reinstate a previously repealed statute required for the collection and retention of data that is necessary for DPH's Occupational Illness Surveillance program. Lastly, talks about Section 4, believes that it would amend Section 31-53a(a).

NATURE AND SOURCES OF SUPPORT:

None provided.

NATURE AND SOURCES OF OPPOSITION:

Jason Prevelige, PA, Connecticut Academy of Physician Associates: Opposes the bill, states that there are 4,000 licensed physician assistants in Connecticut, how they are working in all areas of a medical setting, and how they have millions of patient encounters in Connecticut yearly. States that in the bill, at the beginning of lines 32 and 51 neglect to include PAs alongside physicians and advanced practice registered nurses, which the normal approach with the Connecticut statute is to include all three professions. By neglecting this issue, it would have the potential to not require PAs to subsequently report a number of important occupational exposures, as well as there is no action for the Labor Commissioner to subsequently investigate or make recommendations for conditions diagnosed and treated by Pas.

Anonymous, Anonymous, DCF: Opposes the bill without reasons stated.

Reported by: Matthew Domejczyk

Date: 3/20/2025