

Judiciary Committee JOINT FAVORABLE REPORT

Bill No.: SB-1443

AN ACT CONCERNING THE PROVISION OF SURVIVOR'S BENEFITS AND HEALTH INSURANCE COVERAGE TO FAMILY MEMBERS OF CORRECTION OFFICERS, COURT SUPPORT SERVICES DIVISION INVESTIGATORS, CRIMINAL JUSTICE DIVISION INVESTIGATORS AND OFFICE OF THE CHIEF

Title: PUBLIC DEFENDER INVESTIGATORS KILLED IN THE LINE OF DUTY.

Vote Date: 4/8/2025

Vote Action: Joint Favorable

PH Date: 3/10/2025

File No.:

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SPONSORS OF BILL:

Judiciary Committee

REASONS FOR BILL:

Correction employees work in an inherently dangerous environment. They often must stop inmates from attacking inmates or attacking staff, and some have suffered life threatening injuries. Therefore, this bill aims to provide survivor's benefits and health insurance coverage to the family members of correction officers, Court Support Services Division investigators, Criminal Justice Division investigators and Office of the Chief Public Defender investigators killed in the line of duty. This benefit makes evident that the state supports correctional employees and holds them in the same regard as other law enforcement officers.

RESPONSE FROM ADMINISTRATION/AGENCY:

None expressed.

NATURE AND SOURCES OF SUPPORT:

Brian Anderson, Legislative Director, Council 4 AFSCME: They testified in support of this bill. They do urge that correction employee members and their investigator members be added to the statute. Their correction members work in a dangerous environment and every year, it seems a corrections staff person is stabbed, beaten, and assaulted. It helps for them to be held in the same regard as law enforcement officers. Though they hope that this

benefit would never be used, it does add a level of security to know their families would be provided for if something were to happen on the job.

Ed Hawthorne, President, Connecticut, AFL-CIO: They testified in support of this bill. Corrections Officers, Court Support Services Division Investigators, Criminal Justice Division Investigators, and Investigators at the Chief Public Defenders Office all work in high stress and dangerous environments and, in rare cases, can also be killed on the job so this bill will help the survivors of these public servants manage their finances while adjusting to their loss, allowing them to navigate the transition.

Nicholas Pesce, Support Enforcement Investigator, AFSCME: They testified in support of this bill. They witness the hard work and sacrifices of correction officers and investigators daily. Court Support Service employees are not often in the public eye; however, their duties are just as vital. Their work can often place them in volatile situations, and they can be in environments where emotions are running high, putting them in a dangerous situation. They ask for support not only as a public servant but also a representative of those who may one day need to rely on this bill.

NATURE AND SOURCES OF OPPOSITION:

None expressed.

Reported by: Bonnie Gray

Date: April 21, 2025