



General Assembly

January Session, 2025

Raised Bill No. 1239

LCO No. 4334



Referred to Committee on PUBLIC SAFETY AND SECURITY

Introduced by:
(PS)

***AN ACT CONCERNING A FALLEN OFFICER AND FIREFIGHTER
FUND AND PROVIDING HEALTH INSURANCE COVERAGE TO
SURVIVORS OF A FIREFIGHTER KILLED IN THE LINE OF DUTY.***

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

1 Section 1. Section 3-122a of the general statutes is repealed and the
2 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2025*):

3 (a) For purposes of this section:

4 (1) "Dependent child" means a child, whether by blood or adoption,
5 of a police officer or firefighter who (A) is under the age of twenty-two
6 and was dependent on the earnings of such officer or firefighter at the
7 time of such officer's or firefighter's death, provided a child shall not be
8 considered dependent if such child provides more than half of such
9 child's own support, is married or is legally adopted by another person,
10 or (B) is any age and is physically or mentally incapacitated and was
11 dependent on the earnings of such officer or firefighter at the time of
12 such officer's or firefighter's death.

13 (2) "Firefighter" has the same meaning as provided in section 7-313g,

14 as amended by this act;

15 [(2)] (3) "Killed in the line of duty" means the death of a police officer
16 or firefighter while engaged in the performance of such officer's or
17 firefighter's duties, resulting from an incident, an accident or violence
18 that caused such death or caused injuries that were the direct or
19 proximate cause of such officer's or firefighter's death, including any
20 death that is determined to be occupationally related by a workers'
21 compensation insurance carrier, an employer to whom a certificate of
22 self-insurance has been issued pursuant to section 31-248 or an
23 administrative law judge for workers' compensation purposes under
24 chapter 568. "Killed in the line of duty" does not include the death of a
25 police officer or firefighter through such officer's or firefighter's own
26 wanton or wilful act.

27 [(3)] (4) "Law enforcement unit" has the same meaning as provided
28 in section 7-294a.

29 [(4)] (5) "Police officer" has the same meaning as provided in section
30 7-294a.

31 [(5)] (6) "Surviving family" means any person who is a surviving
32 spouse, surviving dependent child, surviving child who is not a
33 dependent child or surviving parent of a police officer or firefighter
34 killed in the line of duty, or a surviving individual listed on such officer's
35 or firefighter's most recent beneficiary form on file with such officer's
36 employing law enforcement unit or such firefighter's employer.

37 (b) There is established a fund to be known as the "Fallen Officer and
38 Firefighter Fund". The fund may contain any moneys required by law
39 to be deposited in the fund and shall be held by the Treasurer separate
40 and apart from all other moneys, funds and accounts. The interest
41 derived from the investment of the fund shall be credited to the fund.
42 Amounts in the fund may be expended by the Comptroller for purposes
43 of payments pursuant to subsection (c) of this section and
44 reimbursement of municipalities pursuant to subdivision (2) of

45 subsection (c) of section 3-123eee, as amended by this act. Any balance
46 remaining in the fund at the end of any fiscal year shall be carried
47 forward in the fund for the fiscal year next succeeding.

48 (c) (1) After receiving notice, in a form and manner as determined by
49 the Comptroller, from an individual who is a member of the surviving
50 family of a police officer or firefighter who was killed in the line of duty,
51 the Comptroller shall pay, within available appropriations, a lump sum
52 death benefit totaling one hundred thousand dollars from the fund
53 established in subsection (b) of this section to such surviving family, in
54 accordance with regulations adopted pursuant to subsection (e) of this
55 section, provided the surviving family of a police officer or firefighter
56 killed in the line of duty shall not receive more than one such lump sum
57 death benefit. Payments shall be made to surviving families in the order
58 in which notices are received until the amount in such fund is depleted.

59 (2) Any payment made pursuant to subdivision (1) of this subsection
60 shall be in addition to any other benefits for which individuals of such
61 officer's or firefighter's surviving family are eligible and such payments
62 shall not be reduced or offset due to any other benefits, including, but
63 not limited to, workers' compensation or other survivor benefits.

64 (d) Not later than July 1, 2025, and annually thereafter, the
65 Comptroller shall submit a report, in accordance with the provisions of
66 section 11-4a, to the joint standing committee of the General Assembly
67 having cognizance of matters relating to public safety and security. Such
68 report shall include a list of all expenditures made from the fund
69 established by subsection (b) of this section during the prior year, the
70 current balance of such fund and information regarding additional
71 amounts needed for such fund.

72 (e) The Comptroller shall adopt regulations in accordance with the
73 provisions of chapter 54 to implement the provisions of this section,
74 including, but not limited to, application procedures and criteria for
75 awarding grants among individuals who are members of the surviving

76 family, with priority given to awards that would benefit a dependent
 77 child or children and a spouse who is a member of the surviving family.
 78 The Comptroller may implement policies and procedures necessary to
 79 implement the provisions of this section while in the process of adopting
 80 such regulations, provided notice of intent to adopt such regulations is
 81 published on the eRegulations System not later than twenty days after
 82 the date of implementation of such policies and procedures. Any
 83 policies and procedures implemented under this subsection shall be
 84 valid until the time such regulations are adopted.

85 Sec. 2. Section 3-123aaa of the general statutes is repealed and the
 86 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2025*):

87 As used in this section and sections 3-123bbb to 3-123hhh, inclusive,
 88 as amended by this act:

89 (1) "Firefighter" has the same meaning as provided in section 7-313g,
 90 as amended by this act;

91 ~~[(1)]~~ (2) "Health Care Cost Containment Committee" means the
 92 committee established in accordance with the ratified agreement
 93 between the state and the State Employees Bargaining Agent Coalition
 94 pursuant to subsection (f) of section 5-278.

95 ~~[(2)]~~ (3) "Killed in the line of duty" has the same meaning as provided
 96 in section 3-122a, as amended by this act.

97 ~~[(3)]~~ (4) "Nonprofit employee" means any employee of a nonprofit
 98 employer.

99 ~~[(4)]~~ (5) "Nonprofit employer" means (A) a nonprofit corporation,
 100 organized under 26 USC 501, as amended from time to time, that (i) has
 101 a purchase of service contract, as defined in section 4-70b, or (ii) receives
 102 fifty per cent or more of its gross annual revenue from grants or funding
 103 from the state, the federal government or a municipality or any
 104 combination thereof, or (B) an organization that is tax exempt pursuant

105 to 26 USC 501(c)(5), as amended from time to time.

106 [(5)] (6) "Nonstate public employee" means any employee or elected
107 officer of a nonstate public employer.

108 [(6)] (7) "Nonstate public employer" means a municipality or other
109 political subdivision of the state, including a board of education, quasi-
110 public agency or public library. A municipality and a board of education
111 may be considered separate employers.

112 [(7)] (8) "Partnership plan" means a health care benefit plan offered
113 by the Comptroller to (A) nonstate public employers or nonprofit
114 employers pursuant to section 3-123bbb, as amended by this act, (B)
115 graduate assistants at The University of Connecticut and The University
116 of Connecticut Health Center, (C) postdoctoral trainees at The
117 University of Connecticut and The University of Connecticut Health
118 Center, (D) graduate fellows at The University of Connecticut and The
119 University of Connecticut Health Center, and (E) graduate students of
120 The University of Connecticut participating in university-funded
121 internships as part of their graduate program.

122 [(8)] (9) "Police officer" has the same meaning as provided in section
123 7-294a.

124 [(9)] (10) "State employee plan" means a self-insured group health
125 care benefits plan established under subsection (m) of section 5-259.

126 Sec. 3. Subsection (i) of section 3-123bbb of the general statutes is
127 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1,*
128 *2025*):

129 (i) (1) A nonstate public employer that provides coverage pursuant to
130 a partnership plan to a police officer or firefighter who is killed in the
131 line of duty shall continue to provide such coverage to the survivors of
132 such officer or firefighter who were covered under such plan at the time
133 of such officer's or firefighter's death. Such coverage shall continue

134 without break for a period of one year after such officer's or firefighter's
 135 death, and may be renewed annually for up to five years. Such nonstate
 136 public employer shall facilitate continuation and renewal of such
 137 coverage.

138 (2) A nonstate public employer that did not provide coverage
 139 pursuant to a partnership plan to a police officer or firefighter who is
 140 killed in the line of duty shall apply for coverage pursuant to a
 141 partnership plan for those survivors of such officer or firefighter who
 142 were receiving health care benefit coverage through a plan offered to
 143 such officer or firefighter at the time of such officer's or firefighter's
 144 death, at the request of such survivors. The Comptroller shall accept
 145 such application upon the terms and conditions applicable to the
 146 partnership plan for enrollment and provision of coverage to such
 147 survivors for one year. Such enrollment and coverage may be renewed
 148 annually for up to five years. Such nonstate public employer shall
 149 facilitate initiation and renewal of such enrollment and coverage.

150 Sec. 4. Subsection (c) of section 3-123eee of the general statutes is
 151 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1,*
 152 *2025*):

153 (c) (1) Each employer shall pay monthly the amount determined by
 154 the Comptroller, pursuant to this section, for coverage of its employees
 155 or its employees and retirees, as appropriate, under a partnership plan.
 156 An employer may require each covered employee to contribute a
 157 portion of the cost of such employee's coverage under the plan, subject
 158 to any collective bargaining obligation applicable to such employer,
 159 provided no contribution may be required of an individual receiving
 160 coverage as described in subsection (i) of section 3-123bbb, as amended
 161 by this act.

162 (2) An employer making payments pursuant to subdivision (1) of this
 163 subsection for coverage under a partnership plan of an individual or
 164 individuals described in subsection (i) of section 3-123bbb, as amended

165 by this act, shall be reimbursed by the Comptroller for the total cost of
 166 such payments from the Fallen Officer and Firefighter Fund established
 167 pursuant to subsection (b) of section 3-122a, as amended by this act.

168 Sec. 5. Section 7-313g of the general statutes is repealed and the
 169 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2025*):

170 For purposes of this section and sections 3-122a, as amended by this
 171 act, 3-123, 3-123aaa, as amended by this act, 7-313h to 7-313k inclusive,
 172 and 29-303, "firefighter" shall include any (1) local fire marshal, deputy
 173 fire marshal, fire investigator, fire inspector and such other classes of
 174 inspectors and investigators for whom the State Fire Marshal and the
 175 Codes and Standards Committee, acting jointly, have adopted
 176 minimum standards of qualification pursuant to section 29-298; and (2)
 177 uniformed member of a paid municipal, state or volunteer fire
 178 department.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:

| | | |
|-----------|---------------------|-------------|
| Section 1 | <i>July 1, 2025</i> | 3-122a |
| Sec. 2 | <i>July 1, 2025</i> | 3-123aaa |
| Sec. 3 | <i>July 1, 2025</i> | 3-123bbb(i) |
| Sec. 4 | <i>July 1, 2025</i> | 3-123eee(c) |
| Sec. 5 | <i>July 1, 2025</i> | 7-313g |

Statement of Purpose:

To (1) establish that the surviving family of a firefighter killed in the line of duty shall be paid a death benefit from the Fallen Officer Fund, (2) rename such fund the "Fallen Officer and Firefighter Fund", and (3) provide health insurance coverage to the survivors of a firefighter killed in the line of duty.

[Proposed deletions are enclosed in brackets. Proposed additions are indicated by underline, except that when the entire text of a bill or resolution or a section of a bill or resolution is new, it is not underlined.]