



General Assembly

## ***Substitute Bill No. 1239***

*January Session, 2025*



### ***AN ACT CONCERNING THE FALLEN HERO FUND AND PROVIDING HEALTH INSURANCE COVERAGE TO SURVIVORS OF FIRST RESPONDERS WHO ARE 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 Section 3-122a of the general statutes is repealed and the  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] first responder who (A) is under the age of twenty-  
6       two and was dependent on the earnings of such [officer] first responder  
7       at the time of such [officer's] first responder's death, provided a child  
8       shall not be considered dependent if such child provides more than half  
9       of such child's own support, is married or is legally adopted by another  
10      person, or (B) is any age and is physically or mentally incapacitated and  
11      was dependent on the earnings of such [officer] first responder at the  
12      time of such [officer's] first responder's death.

13      (2) "Emergency medical technician" has the same meaning as  
14      provided in section 20-206jj.

15      (3) "Firefighter" has the same meaning as provided in section 7-313g.

16     (4) "First responder" means an emergency medical technician,  
17 firefighter, paramedic or police officer.

18     [(2)] (5) "Killed in the line of duty" means the death of a [police officer]  
19 first responder while engaged in the performance of such [officer's] first  
20 responder's duties, resulting from an incident, an accident or violence  
21 that caused such death or caused injuries that were the direct or  
22 proximate cause of such [officer's] first responder's death, including any  
23 death that is determined to be occupationally related by a workers'  
24 compensation insurance carrier, an employer to whom a certificate of  
25 self-insurance has been issued pursuant to section 31-248 or an  
26 administrative law judge for workers' compensation purposes under  
27 chapter 568. "Killed in the line of duty" does not include the death of a  
28 [police officer] first responder through such [officer's] first responder's  
29 own wanton or wilful act.

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

32     (6) "Paramedic" has the same meaning as provided in section 20-206jj.

33     [(4)] (7) "Police officer" has the same meaning as provided in section  
34 7-294a.

35     [(5)] (8) "Surviving family" means any person who is a surviving  
36 spouse, surviving dependent child, surviving child who is not a  
37 dependent child or surviving parent of a [police officer] first responder  
38 killed in the line of duty, or a surviving individual listed on such  
39 [officer's] first responder's most recent beneficiary form on file with such  
40 [officer's employing law enforcement unit] first responder's employer.

41     (b) There is established a fund to be known as the ["Fallen Officer  
42 Fund"] "Fallen Hero Fund". The fund may contain any moneys required  
43 by law to be deposited in the fund and shall be held by the Treasurer  
44 separate and apart from all other moneys, funds and accounts. The  
45 interest derived from the investment of the fund shall be credited to the  
46 fund. Amounts in the fund may be expended by the Comptroller for

47 purposes of payments pursuant to subsection (c) of this section and  
48 reimbursement of municipalities pursuant to subdivision (2) of  
49 subsection (c) of section 3-123eee, as amended by this act. Any balance  
50 remaining in the fund at the end of any fiscal year shall be carried  
51 forward in the fund for the fiscal year next succeeding.

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

64 (2) Any payment made pursuant to subdivision (1) of this subsection  
65 shall be in addition to any other benefits for which individuals of such  
66 [officer's] first responder's surviving family are eligible and such  
67 payments shall not be reduced or offset due to any other benefits,  
68 including, but not limited to, workers' compensation or other survivor  
69 benefits.

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

78 (e) The Comptroller shall adopt regulations in accordance with the

79 provisions of chapter 54 to implement the provisions of this section,  
80 including, but not limited to, application procedures and criteria for  
81 awarding grants among individuals who are members of the surviving  
82 family, with priority given to awards that would benefit a dependent  
83 child or children and a spouse who is a member of the surviving family.  
84 The Comptroller may implement policies and procedures necessary to  
85 implement the provisions of this section while in the process of adopting  
86 such regulations, provided notice of intent to adopt such regulations is  
87 published on the eRegulations System not later than twenty days after  
88 the date of implementation of such policies and procedures. Any  
89 policies and procedures implemented under this subsection shall be  
90 valid until the time such regulations are adopted.

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

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

95 (1) "First responder" has the same meaning as provided in section 3-  
96 122a, as amended by this act;

97 [(1)] (2) "Health Care Cost Containment Committee" means the  
98 committee established in accordance with the ratified agreement  
99 between the state and the State Employees Bargaining Agent Coalition  
100 pursuant to subsection (f) of section 5-278.

101 [(2)] (3) "Killed in the line of duty" has the same meaning as provided  
102 in section 3-122a, as amended by this act.

103 [(3)] (4) "Nonprofit employee" means any employee of a nonprofit  
104 employer.

105 [(4)] (5) "Nonprofit employer" means (A) a nonprofit corporation,  
106 organized under 26 USC 501, as amended from time to time, that (i) has  
107 a purchase of service contract, as defined in section 4-70b, or (ii) receives  
108 fifty per cent or more of its gross annual revenue from grants or funding

109 from the state, the federal government or a municipality or any  
110 combination thereof, or (B) an organization that is tax exempt pursuant  
111 to 26 USC 501(c)(5), as amended from time to time.

112 [(5)] (6) "Nonstate public employee" means any employee or elected  
113 officer of a nonstate public employer.

114 [(6)] (7) "Nonstate public employer" means a municipality or other  
115 political subdivision of the state, including a board of education, quasi-  
116 public agency or public library. A municipality and a board of education  
117 may be considered separate employers.

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

128 [(8)] "Police officer" has the same meaning as provided in section 7-  
129 294a.]

130 (9) "State employee plan" means a self-insured group health care  
131 benefits plan established under subsection (m) of section 5-259.

132 Sec. 3. Subsection (i) of section 3-123bbb of the general statutes is  
133 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1,*  
134 *2025*):

135 (i) (1) A nonstate public employer that provides coverage pursuant to  
136 a partnership plan to a [police officer] first responder who is killed in  
137 the line of duty shall continue to provide such coverage to the survivors  
138 of such [officer] first responder who were covered under such plan at

139 the time of such [officer's] first responder's death. Such coverage shall  
140 continue without break for a period of one year after such [officer's] first  
141 responder's death, and may be renewed annually for up to five years.  
142 Such nonstate public employer shall facilitate continuation and renewal  
143 of such coverage.

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

156 Sec. 4. Subsection (c) of section 3-123eee of the general statutes is  
157 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1,*  
158 *2025*):

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

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

171 by this act, shall be reimbursed by the Comptroller for the total cost of  
172 such payments from the Fallen [Officer] Hero Fund established  
173 pursuant to subsection (b) of section 3-122a, as amended by this act.

174 Sec. 5. Subsection (j) of section 10a-105 of the general statutes is  
175 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1,*  
176 *2025*):

177 (j) Said board of trustees may provide health care coverage for  
178 graduate assistants, postdoctoral trainees, graduate fellows and  
179 graduate student interns identified in subdivision [(6)] (8) of section 3-  
180 123aaa, as amended by this act, by enrolling such individuals in a  
181 partnership plan as defined in section 3-123aaa, as amended by this act.  
182 All premiums and expenses resulting from the participation of such  
183 individuals in the partnership plan shall be paid by the university. No  
184 such premiums or expenses shall be charged to the General Fund.

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>	10a-105(j)

**PS**            *Joint Favorable Subst.*

**APP**          *Joint Favorable*