



General Assembly

January Session, 2025

Raised Bill No. 1312

LCO No. 4616



Referred to Committee on LABOR AND PUBLIC EMPLOYEES

Introduced by:
(LAB)

AN ACT IMPLEMENTING THE RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE LABOR DEPARTMENT.

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

1 Section 1. Subdivision (3) of subsection (h) of section 31-225a of the
2 general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu
3 thereof (*Effective October 1, 2025*):

4 (3) The statement of charges provided for in subdivision (2) of this
5 subsection shall constitute notice to the employer that it has been
6 determined that the benefits reported in such statement were properly
7 payable under this chapter to the claimants for the weeks and in the
8 amounts shown in such statements. If the employer contends that
9 benefits have been improperly charged due to fraud or error, a written
10 protest setting forth reasons therefor shall be filed with the
11 administrator [within sixty] not later than forty days of the date the
12 quarterly statement was provided. An eligibility issue shall not be
13 reopened on the basis of such quarterly statement if notification of such
14 eligibility issue had previously been given to the employer under the
15 provisions of section 31-241, and he or she failed to file a timely appeal

16 therefrom or had the issue finally resolved against him or her.

17 Sec. 2. Subsection (c) of section 31-2e of the general statutes is
18 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October*
19 *1, 2025*):

20 (c) Not later than October 1, 2021, the Labor Commissioner shall
21 designate an Unemployed Workers' Advocate, who shall [serve at the
22 pleasure of the commissioner,] be in the classified service and shall
23 devote full-time to manage the daily activities and duties of the Office
24 of the Unemployed Workers' Advocate. The Unemployed Workers'
25 Advocate shall have the necessary qualifications to perform the duties
26 of said office, including, but not limited to, having expertise and
27 experience in the fields of unemployment compensation benefits and
28 advocacy for the rights of unemployed individuals. Within available
29 appropriations, the Unemployed Workers' Advocate shall appoint and
30 employ such assistants, employees and personnel as deemed necessary
31 for the efficient and effective administration of the activities of the office.

32 Sec. 3. (NEW) (*Effective from passage*) (a) Each physician or advanced
33 practice registered nurse having knowledge of any person whom such
34 physician or advanced practice registered nurse suspects is suffering
35 from an illness related to the exposure of lead, phosphorus, arsenic,
36 brass, wood alcohol or mercury or their compounds, anthrax or
37 compressed air, or any other disease contracted as a result of the nature
38 of the occupation of such person, shall, not later than forty-eight hours
39 of discovery of such suspected occupational disease, provide the Labor
40 Department, in a form and manner prescribed by the department, a
41 report stating (1) the name, address and occupation of such person, (2)
42 the name, address and business of such person's employer, (3) the
43 nature of the disease, and (4) any other information required by the
44 department. Any physician or advanced practice registered nurse who
45 fails to provide the report required pursuant to this section or who fails
46 to send such report within the time period prescribed by this section
47 may be assessed a civil penalty of not more than ten dollars by the Labor

Commissioner. No report made pursuant to the provisions of this section shall be admissible as evidence in any civil action or for a workers' compensation claim under chapter 568 of the general statutes.

(b) The Labor Commissioner may investigate and make recommendations regarding the elimination or prevention of occupational diseases reported by a physician or advanced practice registered nurse pursuant to this section, provided no information obtained by the commissioner upon investigation shall be admissible as evidence in any civil action or for a workers' compensation claim under chapter 568 of the general statutes.

Sec. 4. Subsection (a) of section 31-53a of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from passage*):

(a) The State Comptroller or the contracting authority acting pursuant to section 31-53 is hereby authorized and directed to pay to mechanics, laborers and workers from any accrued payments withheld under the terms of a contract terminated pursuant to subsection (b) of section 31-53 any wages found to be due such mechanics, laborers and workers pursuant to section 31-53. The Labor Commissioner is further authorized and directed to distribute a list to all departments of the state and political subdivisions of the state giving the names of persons or firms whom the Labor Commissioner has found to have (1) disregarded their obligations under section 31-53 and section 31-76c to employees and subcontractors on public works projects, (2) been barred from federal government contracts in accordance with the provisions of the Davis-Bacon Act, 49 Stat. 1011 (1931), 40 USC 276a-2, or (3) submitted false, misleading or materially inaccurate information under subsection (d) of section [21-53d] 31-53d.

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

Section 1	October 1, 2025	31-225a(h)(3)
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Sec. 2	<i>October 1, 2025</i>	31-2e(c)
Sec. 3	<i>from passage</i>	New section
Sec. 4	<i>from passage</i>	31-53a(a)

Statement of Purpose:

To (1) reduce the amount of time an employer can protest unemployment benefits that such employer contends to have been improperly charged, (2) change the position of the Unemployed Workers' Advocate to classified service, (3) require physicians and advanced practice registered nurses to report suspected occupational diseases to the Labor Department, and (4) make technical changes to the labor statutes.

[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.]