



**House Bill No. 6863**

**Public Act No. 25-12**

**AN ACT CONCERNING DEFICIENCY APPROPRIATIONS FOR THE FISCAL YEAR ENDING JUNE 30, 2025, AND COMPENSATION PAID TO INJURED EMPLOYEES AND THE PARENTS OF A DECEASED EMPLOYEE UNDER THE WORKERS' COMPENSATION ACT.**

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

Section 1. (*Effective from passage*) The following sums are appropriated from the GENERAL FUND for the purposes herein specified for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2025:

GENERAL FUND	2024-2025
DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS	
Other Expenses	650,000
DEPARTMENT OF ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES	
Personal Services	4,000,000
Other Expenses	1,000,000
W. C. Administrator	562,120
DIVISION OF CRIMINAL JUSTICE	
Expert Witnesses	5,000
DEPARTMENT OF EMERGENCY SERVICES AND PUBLIC PROTECTION	

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Personal Services	3,442,000
Criminal Justice Information System	1,000,000
Connecticut State Firefighter's Association	65,000
MILITARY DEPARTMENT	
Personal Services	100,000
Other Expenses	131,177
DEPARTMENT OF LABOR	
Other Expenses	500,000
COMMISSION ON HUMAN RIGHTS AND OPPORTUNITIES	
Personal Services	260,000
DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING	
Personal Services	250,000
Housing/Homeless Services	18,000,000
DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH	
Other Expenses	996,000
Local and District Departments of Health	18,801
OFFICE OF THE CHIEF MEDICAL EXAMINER	
Personal Services	100,000
DEPARTMENT OF DEVELOPMENTAL SERVICES	
Community Residential Services	6,416,000
DEPARTMENT OF MENTAL HEALTH AND ADDICTION SERVICES	
Personal Services	25,100,000
DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES	
Medicaid	284,000,000
Old Age Assistance	350,000

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Aid To The Blind	22,000
State Administered General Assistance	50,000
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION	
Adult Education	420,485
Excess Cost - Student Based	291,499
TECHNICAL EDUCATION AND CAREER SYSTEM	
Personal Services	4,400,000
Other Expenses	7,000,000
OFFICE OF EARLY CHILDHOOD	
Birth to Three	900,000
TEACHERS' RETIREMENT BOARD	
Retirees Health Service Cost	9,600,000
DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTION	
Personal Services	40,600,000
DEPARTMENT OF CHILDREN AND FAMILIES	
Other Expenses	1,650,000
JUDICIAL DEPARTMENT	
Personal Services	1,951,097
Other Expenses	5,692,000
Alternative Incarceration Program	516,000
Juvenile Alternative Incarceration	661,000
PUBLIC DEFENDER SERVICES COMMISSION	
Personal Services	991,200
STATE COMPTROLLER - FRINGE BENEFITS	
Higher Education Alternative Retirement System	69,000,000
Employers Social Security Tax	5,900,000
Retired State Employees Health Service Cost	35,000,000

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Other Post Employment Benefits	16,000,000
WORKERS' COMPENSATION CLAIMS - DEPARTMENT OF ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES	
Workers Comp Claims - UConn	200,000
Workers Comp Claims - DMHAS	1,000,000
Workers Comp Claims - DOC	6,000,000
TOTAL - GENERAL FUND	554,791,379

Sec. 2. (*Effective from passage*) The amounts appropriated to the following agencies in section 1 of public act 23-204 are reduced by the following amounts for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2025:

GENERAL FUND	2024-2025
OFFICE OF LEGISLATIVE MANAGEMENT	
Personal Services	5,000,000
DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE SERVICES	
Personal Services	4,550,000
OFFICE OF POLICY AND MANAGEMENT	
Personal Services	4,600,000
Municipal Restructuring	30,000,000
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION	
Sheff Settlement	4,500,000
Sheff Transportation	6,000,000
Aspiring Educators Diversity Scholarship Program	8,000,000
Magnet Schools	14,000,000
OFFICE OF EARLY CHILDHOOD	
Early Care and Education	12,000,000

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TOTAL - GENERAL FUND	88,650,000
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Sec. 3. (*Effective from passage*) The following sums are appropriated from the SPECIAL TRANSPORTATION FUND for the purposes herein specified for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2025:

SPECIAL TRANSPORTATION FUND	2024-2025
DEPARTMENT OF ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES	
State Insurance and Risk Mgmt Operations	460,000
STATE COMPTROLLER - FRINGE BENEFITS	
Employers Social Security Tax	1,500,000
Other Post Employment Benefits	850,000
WORKERS' COMPENSATION CLAIMS - DEPARTMENT OF ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES	
Workers' Compensation Claims	1,300,000
TOTAL - SPECIAL TRANSPORTATION FUND	4,110,000

Sec. 4. (*Effective from passage*) The amount appropriated to the following agency in section 2 of public act 23-204 is reduced by the following amount for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2025:

SPECIAL TRANSPORTATION FUND	2024-2025
DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION	
Personal Services	4,110,000
TOTAL - SPECIAL TRANSPORTATION FUND	4,110,000

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Sec. 5. (*Effective from passage*) The following sums are appropriated from the BANKING FUND for the purposes herein specified for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2025:

BANKING FUND	2024-2025
DEPARTMENT OF ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES	
Personal Services	100,000
Fringe Benefits	20,000
DEPARTMENT OF BANKING	
Indirect Overhead	144,997
TOTAL - BANKING FUND	264,997

Sec. 6. (*Effective from passage*) The amount appropriated to the following agency in section 4 of public act 23-204 is reduced by the following amount for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2025:

BANKING FUND	2024-2025
DEPARTMENT OF BANKING	
Personal Services	264,997
TOTAL - BANKING FUND	264,997

Sec. 7. (*Effective from passage*) The following sums are appropriated from the INSURANCE FUND for the purposes herein specified for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2025:

INSURANCE FUND	2024-2025
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INSURANCE DEPARTMENT	
Indirect Overhead	560,635
OFFICE OF THE HEALTHCARE ADVOCATE	
Indirect Overhead	26,850
TOTAL - INSURANCE FUND	587,485

Sec. 8. (*Effective from passage*) The amount appropriated to the following agency in section 5 of public act 23-204 is reduced by the following amount for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2025:

INSURANCE FUND	2024-2025
INSURANCE DEPARTMENT	
Fringe Benefits	587,485
TOTAL - INSURANCE FUND	587,485

Sec. 9. (*Effective from passage*) The following sum is appropriated from the CONSUMER COUNSEL AND PUBLIC UTILITY CONTROL FUND for the purposes herein specified for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2025:

CONSUMER COUNSEL AND PUBLIC UTILITY CONTROL FUND	2024-2025
OFFICE OF CONSUMER COUNSEL	
Indirect Overhead	59,499
TOTAL - CONSUMER COUNSEL AND PUBLIC UTILITY CONTROL FUND	59,499

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Sec. 10. (*Effective from passage*) The amount appropriated to the following agency in section 6 of public act 23-204 is reduced by the following amounts for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2025:

CONSUMER COUNSEL AND PUBLIC UTILITY CONTROL FUND	2024-2025
OFFICE OF CONSUMER COUNSEL	
Fringe Benefits	59,499
TOTAL - CONSUMER COUNSEL AND PUBLIC UTILITY CONTROL FUND	59,499

Sec. 11. (*Effective from passage*) The following sum is appropriated from the WORKERS' COMPENSATION FUND for the purposes herein specified for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2025:

WORKERS' COMPENSATION FUND	2024-2025
WORKERS' COMPENSATION COMMISSION	
Indirect Overhead	196,993
TOTAL - WORKERS' COMPENSATION FUND	196,993

Sec. 12. (*Effective from passage*) The amount appropriated to the following agency in section 7 of public act 23-204 is reduced by the following amounts for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2025:

WORKERS' COMPENSATION FUND	2024-2025
WORKERS' COMPENSATION COMMISSION	
Fringe Benefits	196,993
TOTAL - WORKERS' COMPENSATION FUND	196,993



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Sec. 13. Subsection (b) of section 31-308 of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from passage*):

(b) With respect to the following injuries, the compensation, in addition to the usual compensation for total incapacity but in lieu of all other payments for compensation, shall be seventy-five per cent of the average weekly earnings of the injured employee, calculated pursuant to section 31-310, after such earnings have been reduced by any deduction for federal or state taxes, or both, and for the federal Insurance Contributions Act made from such employee's total wages received during the period of calculation of the employee's average weekly wage pursuant to said section 31-310, but in no case more than one hundred per cent, raised to the next even dollar, of the average weekly earnings of production and related workers in manufacturing in the state, as determined in accordance with the provisions of section 31-309, or less than fifty dollars weekly. All of the following injuries include the loss of the member or organ and the complete and permanent loss of use of the member or organ referred to:

MEMBER	INJURY	WEEKS OF COMPENSATION
Arm		
Master arm	Loss at or above elbow	208
Other arm	Loss at or above elbow	194
Hand		
Master hand	Loss at or above wrist	168
Other hand	Loss at or above wrist	155
One leg	Loss at or above knee	155
One foot	Loss at or above ankle	125

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Hearing		
	Both ears	104
	One ear	35
One eye		
	Complete and permanent loss of sight in, or reduction of sight to one-tenth or less of normal vision	157
Thumb*		
	On master hand	63
	On other hand	54
Fingers**		
	First finger	36
	Second finger	29
	Third finger	21
	Fourth finger	17
Toes***		
	Great toe	28
	Other toes	9
Back		Number of weeks which the proportion of incapacity represents to a maximum of 374

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		weeks
Heart		520
Brain		520
Carotid artery		520
Pancreas		416
Liver		347
Stomach		260
Loss of bladder		233
Speech		163
Lung		117
Cervical spine		117 ( <u>until June 30,</u>
		<u>2025</u> )
Kidney		117
Rib cage	Bilateral	69
Ovary		35
Testis		35
Mammary		35
Nose	Sense and respiratory function	35
Jaw	Mastication	35
Uterus		35-104
Vagina		35-104
Penis		35-104
Coccyx	Actual removal	35
Sense of smell		17
Sense of taste		17
Spleen	In addition to scar	13
Gall bladder		13

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Tooth	Minimum	1
Loss of drainage duct of eye (If corrected by prosthesis)		17 for each
Loss of drainage duct of eye (If uncorrected by prosthesis)		33 for each
Pelvis		percentage of back

On and after July 1, 2025:

<u>Intestinal tract</u>	<u>347</u>
<u>Esophagus</u>	<u>180</u>
<u>Cervical Spine</u>	<u>208</u>

\*The loss or loss of use of one phalanx of a thumb shall be construed as seventy-five per cent of the loss of the thumb.

\*\*The loss or loss of use of one phalanx of a finger shall be construed as fifty per cent of the loss of the finger. The loss of or loss of use of two phalanges of a finger shall be construed as ninety per cent of the loss of the finger.

\*\*\*The loss or loss of use of one phalanx of a great toe shall be construed as sixty-six and two-thirds per cent of the loss of the great toe. The loss of the greater part of any phalanx shall be construed as the loss of a phalanx and shall be compensated accordingly.

[If] For any matter filed with the Workers' Compensation Commission on or after July 1, 1993, that remains open and pending before said commission on the effective date of this section, and for any matter filed with said commission on and after the effective date of this section, (1) if the injury consists of the loss of a substantial part of a member resulting in a permanent partial loss of the use of a member, or if the injury results in a permanent partial loss of function, the administrative law judge [may, in the administrative law judge's

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discretion] shall, in lieu of other compensation, award to the injured employee the proportion of the sum provided in this subsection for the total loss of, or the loss of the use of, the member or for incapacity or both that represents the proportion of total loss or loss of use found to exist, and any voluntary agreement submitted in which the basis of settlement is such proportionate payment may, if otherwise conformable to the provisions of this chapter, be approved by the administrative law judge; [in the administrative law judge's discretion] and (2) notwithstanding the provisions of this subsection, an injured employee who has reached maximum medical improvement and is eligible for benefits pursuant to this subsection, but whose injuries continue to result in total incapacity to work pursuant to section 31-307, shall continue to be eligible to receive total incapacity benefits pursuant to section 31-307 until such period of total incapacity ends. Notwithstanding the provisions of this subsection, the complete loss or loss of use of an organ which results in the death of an employee shall be compensable pursuant only to section 31-306, as amended by this act.

Sec. 14. Subdivision (6) of subsection (a) of section 31-306 of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from passage*):

(6) In all cases where there are no presumptive dependents, but (A) where there are one or more persons wholly dependent in fact, the compensation in case of death shall be divided according to the relative degree of their dependence, or (B) where there are no persons wholly dependent in fact, the compensation shall be divided equally among the parents of the deceased employee. Compensation payable under this subdivision shall be paid for not more than three hundred and twelve weeks from the date of the death of the employee. The compensation, if paid to those wholly dependent in fact, shall be paid at the full compensation rate. The compensation, if paid to those partially dependent in fact upon the deceased employee as of the date of the

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injury, shall not, in total, be more than the full compensation rate nor less than twenty dollars weekly, nor, if the average weekly sum contributed by the deceased at the date of the injury to those partially dependent in fact is more than twenty dollars weekly, not more than the sum so contributed.

Sec. 15. (*Effective from passage*) (a) There is established a working group to study rehabilitation services available to injured employees under chapter 568 of the general statutes. Such study shall include, but need not be limited to, an examination of (1) whether the provisions of chapter 568 of the general statutes adequately fund rehabilitation services for all injured employees, (2) methods to encourage injured employees to utilize such services, including providing stipends to injured employees who utilize such services, and (3) the provisions of section 31-308a of the general statutes, as amended by this act.

(b) The working group shall consist of the following members:

(1) The chairpersons and the ranking members of the joint standing committees of the General Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to the judiciary and labor and public employees, or their designees, who shall serve as nonvoting, ex-officio members of the working group, provided (A) a chairperson, ranking member or a designee of the chairperson or ranking member, who is a member of the General Assembly, may be selected to serve as a chairperson and voting member of the working group pursuant to subsection (d) of this section, and (B) any designee of a chairperson or ranking member, who is not a member of the General Assembly, shall be a voting member of the working group;

(2) The Commissioner of Aging and Disability Services, or the commissioner's designee;

(3) The chairperson of the Workers' Compensation Commission, or

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the chairperson's designee; and

(4) The following persons jointly appointed by the chairpersons of the joint standing committee of the General Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to the judiciary and labor and public employees:

(A) An attorney who has expertise in representing claimants appearing before the Workers' Compensation Commission;

(B) An attorney who has expertise in representing respondents appearing before the Workers' Compensation Commission;

(C) A representative of an association representing trial attorneys in the state;

(D) A representative of an association representing workers' compensation insurers in the state;

(E) A representative of an association representing business and industry in the state;

(F) Four representatives of labor organizations that are affiliated with the Connecticut AFL-CIO;

(G) A representative from an association representing municipalities of the state;

(H) A representative from an association representing workers' compensation insurance providers; and

(I) A representative from an association representing small businesses.

(c) All initial appointments to the working group shall be made not later than thirty days after the effective date of this section. Any vacancy shall be filled by the appointing authority.

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(d) The chairpersons of the joint standing committees of the General Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to the judiciary and labor and public employees shall select two members of the General Assembly, appointed to the working group pursuant to subdivision (1) of subsection (b) of this section, to act as the chairpersons of the working group. Such chairpersons shall schedule the first meeting of the working group, which shall be held not later than sixty days after the effective date of this section. The working group shall meet not less than once per month and at such other times as may be necessary upon the call of the chairpersons.

(e) The administrative staff of the joint standing committees of the General Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to the judiciary and labor and public employees shall serve as administrative staff of the working group.

(f) Not later than February 1, 2026, the working group shall submit a preliminary report on its findings and recommendations to the joint standing committees of the General Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to the judiciary and labor and public employees, in accordance with the provisions of section 11-4a of the general statutes. Not later than January 1, 2027, the working group shall submit a final report on its findings and recommendations to the joint standing committees of the General Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to the judiciary and labor and public employees, in accordance with the provisions of section 11-4a of the general statutes. The working group shall terminate on the date that it submits such report or January 1, 2027, whichever is later.

Sec. 16. Section 31-308a of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from passage*):

(a) In addition to the compensation benefits provided by section 31-308, as amended by this act, for specific loss of a member or use of the



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function of a member of the body, or any personal injury covered by this chapter, the administrative law judge, after such payments provided by said section 31-308 have been paid for the period set forth in said section, may award additional compensation benefits for such partial permanent disability equal to seventy-five per cent of the difference between the wages currently earned by an employee in a position comparable to the position held by such injured employee prior to his injury, after such wages have been reduced by any deduction for federal or state taxes, or both, and for the federal Insurance Contributions Act in accordance with section 31-310, and the weekly amount which such employee will probably be able to earn thereafter, after such amount has been reduced by any deduction for federal or state taxes, or both, and for the federal Insurance Contributions Act in accordance with section 31-310, to be determined by the administrative law judge based upon the nature and extent of the injury, the training, education and experience of the employee, the availability of work for persons with such physical condition and at the employee's age, but not more than one hundred per cent, raised to the next even dollar, of the average weekly earnings of production and related workers in manufacturing in the state, as determined in accordance with the provisions of section 31-309. If evidence of exact loss of earnings is not available, such loss may be computed from the proportionate loss of physical ability or earning power caused by the injury. The duration of such additional compensation shall be determined upon a similar basis by the administrative law judge, but in no event shall the duration of such additional compensation exceed the lesser of (1) the duration of the employee's permanent partial disability benefits, or (2) five hundred twenty weeks. Additional benefits provided under this section shall be available only to employees who are willing and able to perform work in this state.

(b) Notwithstanding the provisions of subsection (a) of this section, additional benefits provided under this section shall be available [only]

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when the nature of the injury and its effect on the earning capacity of an employee warrant additional compensation.

(c) In addition to the benefits available under subsection (a) of this section, supplemental benefits shall be available to an injured employee who (1) following the receipt of benefits under subsection (a) of this section, remains unable to perform the employee's usual work, and (2) is actively engaged in a vocational rehabilitation service or equivalent program, or has completed such service or program. As used in this subsection, "supplemental benefits" means not more than sixty weeks of benefits under this section, including the benefits previously awarded under subsection (a) of this section.

Governor's Action:  
Approved May 20, 2025