



**Substitute Senate Bill No. 1239**

**Public Act No. 25-61**

**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:

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 Section 3-122a of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2025*):

(a) For purposes of this section:

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

(b) There is established a fund to be known as the ["Fallen Officer Fund"] "Fallen Hero Fund". The fund may contain any moneys required by law to be deposited in the fund and shall be held by the Treasurer

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separate and apart from all other moneys, funds and accounts. The interest derived from the investment of the fund shall be credited to the fund. Amounts in the fund may be expended by the Comptroller for purposes of payments pursuant to subsection (c) of this section and reimbursement of municipalities pursuant to subdivision (2) of subsection (c) of section 3-123eee, as amended by this act. Any balance remaining in the fund at the end of any fiscal year shall be carried forward in the fund for the fiscal year next succeeding.

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

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

(d) Not later than July 1, 2025, and annually thereafter, the Comptroller shall submit a report, in accordance with the provisions of section 11-4a, to the joint standing committee of the General Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to public safety and security. Such report shall include a list of all expenditures made from the fund

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established by subsection (b) of this section during the prior year, the current balance of such fund and information regarding additional amounts needed for such fund.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

(i) (1) A nonstate public employer that provides coverage pursuant to a partnership plan to a [police officer] first responder who is killed in the line of duty shall continue to provide such coverage to the survivors of such [officer] first responder who were covered under such plan at the time of such [officer's] first responder's death. Such coverage shall continue without break for a period of one year after such [officer's] first responder's death, and may be renewed annually for up to five years. Such nonstate public employer shall facilitate continuation and renewal of such coverage.

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

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

(c) (1) Each employer shall pay monthly the amount determined by the Comptroller, pursuant to this section, for coverage of its employees or its employees and retirees, as appropriate, under a partnership plan.

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An employer may require each covered employee to contribute a portion of the cost of such employee's coverage under the plan, subject to any collective bargaining obligation applicable to such employer, provided no contribution may be required of an individual receiving coverage as described in subsection (i) of section 3-123bbb, as amended by this act.

(2) An employer making payments pursuant to subdivision (1) of this subsection for coverage under a partnership plan of an individual or individuals described in subsection (i) of section 3-123bbb, as amended by this act, shall be reimbursed by the Comptroller for the total cost of such payments from the Fallen [Officer] Hero Fund established pursuant to subsection (b) of section 3-122a, as amended by this act.

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

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

Governor's Action:  
Approved June 10, 2025