



General Assembly

**Amendment**

January Session, 2025

LCO No. 8761



Offered by:

SEN. HARDING, 30<sup>th</sup> Dist.  
SEN. MARTIN, 31<sup>st</sup> Dist.  
SEN. SAMPSON, 16<sup>th</sup> Dist.  
SEN. CICARELLA, 34<sup>th</sup> Dist.  
SEN. SOMERS, 18<sup>th</sup> Dist.  
SEN. HWANG, 28<sup>th</sup> Dist.

SEN. BERTHEL, 32<sup>nd</sup> Dist.  
SEN. FAZIO, 36<sup>th</sup> Dist.  
SEN. GORDON, 35<sup>th</sup> Dist.  
SEN. KISSEL, 7<sup>th</sup> Dist.  
SEN. PERILLO J., 21<sup>st</sup> Dist.

To: House Bill No. 6863

File No. 817

Cal. No.

**"AN ACT MAKING DEFICIENCY APPROPRIATIONS FOR THE FISCAL YEAR ENDING JUNE 30, 2025."**

1 Strike everything after the enacting clause and substitute the  
2 following in lieu thereof:

3 "Section 1. (*Effective from passage*) The following sum is appropriated  
4 from the GENERAL FUND for the purposes herein specified for the  
5 fiscal year ending June 30, 2025:

T1	GENERAL FUND	2024-2025
T2		
T3	DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES	
T4	Medicaid	284,000,000
T5		
T6	TOTAL - GENERAL FUND	284,000,000

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

T7	GENERAL FUND	2024-2025
T8		
T9	OFFICE OF LEGISLATIVE MANAGEMENT	
T10	Personal Services	5,000,000
T11		
T12	DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE SERVICES	
T13	Personal Services	4,550,000
T14		
T15	AUDITORS OF PUBLIC ACCOUNTS	
T16	Personal Services	150,000
T17		
T18	COMMISSION ON WOMEN, CHILDREN, SENIORS, EQUITY, AND OPPORTUNITY	
T19	Personal Services	200,000
T20		
T21	SECRETARY OF THE STATE	
T22	Personal Services	900,000
T23		
T24	ELECTIONS ENFORCEMENT COMMISSION	
T25	Personal Services	300,000
T26		
T27	OFFICE OF STATE ETHICS	
T28	Personal Services	25,000
T29		
T30	FREEDOM OF INFORMATION COMMISSION	
T31	Personal Services	325,000
T32		
T33	STATE TREASURER	
T34	Personal Services	325,000
T35		
T36	STATE COMPTROLLER	
T37	Personal Services	620,000
T38		
T39	OFFICE OF GOVERNMENT ACCOUNTABILITY	

T40	Personal Services	200,000
T41	Office of the Child Advocate	75,000
T42		
T43	OFFICE OF POLICY AND MANAGEMENT	
T44	Personal Services	3,500,000
T45	Other Expenses	500,000
T46	Municipal Restructuring	31,190,000
T47		
T48	ATTORNEY GENERAL	
T49	Personal Services	2,800,000
T50		
T51	DEPARTMENT OF CONSUMER PROTECTION	
T52	Personal Services	750,000
T53		
T54	DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE	
T55	Personal Services	100,000
T56	Senior Food Vouchers	150,000
T57	WIC Coupon Program for Fresh Produce	100,000
T58		
T59	DEPARTMENT OF AGING AND DISABILITY SERVICES	
T60	Other Expenses	150,000
T61	Educational Aid for Children - Blind or Visually Impaired	320,000
T62	Employment Opportunities - Blind & Disabled	150,000
T63	Special Training for the Deaf Blind	100,000
T64		
T65	DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION	
T66	Sheff Settlement	4,700,000
T67	Sheff Transportation	6,000,000
T68	Aspiring Educators Diversity Scholarship	8,000,000
T69	Charter Schools	431,188
T70	Open Choice Program	378,000
T71	Magnet Schools	14,000,000
T72		
T73	OFFICE OF EARLY CHILDHOOD	
T74	Personal Services	450,000
T75	Early Care and Education	12,000,000
T76		

T77	OFFICE OF HIGHER EDUCATION	
T78	Personal Services	175,000
T79	Other Expenses	100,000
T80		
T81	DEPARTMENT OF CHILDREN AND FAMILIES	
T82	Board and Care for Children – Adoption	1,650,000
T83	Board and Care for Children – Foster	2,750,000
T84	Community Care Coordination	1,250,000
T85	No Nexus Special Education	200,000
T86	Juvenile Review Boards	100,000
T87		
T88	WORKERS COMPENSATION CLAIMS – DEPARTMENT OF ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES	
T89	Workers' Compensation Claims – Department of Children and Families	1,000,000
T90	Workers' Compensation Claims – Department of Developmental Services	3,500,000
T91		
T92	TOTAL – GENERAL FUND	109,164,188

9       Sec. 3. (*Effective from passage*) The amount appropriated to the  
10 following agency in section 2 of public act 23-204 is reduced by the  
11 following amount for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2025:

T93	SPECIAL TRANSPORTATION FUND	2024-2025
T94		
T95	DEPARTMENT OF ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES	
T96	Personal Services	600,000
T97		
T98	DEPARTMENT OF MOTOR VEHICLES	
T99	Personal Services	8,000,000
T100		
T101	DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY AND ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION	
T102	Other Expenses	10,000,000
T103		

T104	DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION	
T105	Personal Services	4,280,000
T106		
T107	STATE COMPTROLLER - FRINGE BENEFITS	
T108	State Employees Health Service Cost	4,000,000
T109	SERS Defined Contribution Match	375,000
T110	Unemployment Compensation	120,000
T111	Insurance - Group Life	35,000
T112		
T113		
T114	TOTAL - SPECIAL TRANSPORTATION FUND	27,410,000

12 Sec. 4. Subsection (b) of section 31-308 of the general statutes is  
 13 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from*  
 14 *passage*):

15 (b) With respect to the following injuries, the compensation, in  
 16 addition to the usual compensation for total incapacity but in lieu of all  
 17 other payments for compensation, shall be seventy-five per cent of the  
 18 average weekly earnings of the injured employee, calculated pursuant  
 19 to section 31-310, after such earnings have been reduced by any  
 20 deduction for federal or state taxes, or both, and for the federal  
 21 Insurance Contributions Act made from such employee's total wages  
 22 received during the period of calculation of the employee's average  
 23 weekly wage pursuant to said section 31-310, but in no case more than  
 24 one hundred per cent, raised to the next even dollar, of the average  
 25 weekly earnings of production and related workers in manufacturing in  
 26 the state, as determined in accordance with the provisions of section 31-  
 27 309, or less than fifty dollars weekly. All of the following injuries include  
 28 the loss of the member or organ and the complete and permanent loss  
 29 of use of the member or organ referred to:

T115	MEMBER	INJURY	WEEKS OF
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T116			COMPENSATION
T117	Arm		
T118	Master arm	Loss at or above elbow	208
T119	Other arm	Loss at or above elbow	194
T120	Hand		
T121	Master hand	Loss at or above wrist	168
T122	Other hand	Loss at or above wrist	155
T123	One leg	Loss at or above knee	155
T124	One foot	Loss at or above ankle	125
T125	Hearing		
T126		Both ears	104
T127		One ear	35
T128	One eye		
T129		Complete and permanent	
T130		loss of sight in, or	
T131		reduction of sight to	
T132		one-tenth or less	
T133		of normal vision	157
T134	Thumb*		
T135		On master hand	63
T136		On other hand	54
T137	Fingers**		
T138		First finger	36
T139		Second finger	29
T140		Third finger	21
T141		Fourth finger	17
T142	Toes***		
T143		Great toe	28

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T144	Other toes	9
T145	Back	Number of weeks
T146		which the
T147		proportion of
T148		incapacity
T149		represents to a
T150		maximum of 374
T151		weeks
T152	Heart	520
T153	Brain	520
T154	Carotid artery	520
T155	Pancreas	416
T156	Liver	347
T157	Stomach	260
T158	Loss of bladder	233
T159	Speech	163
T160	Lung	117
T161	Cervical spine	117 ( <u>until June 30,</u>
T162		<u>2025)</u>
T163	Kidney	117
T164	Rib cage	Bilateral 69
T165	Ovary	35
T166	Testis	35
T167	Mammary	35
T168	Nose	Sense and respiratory function 35
T169	Jaw	Mastication 35
T170	Uterus	35-104
T171	Vagina	35-104

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T172	Penis		35-104
T173	Coccyx	Actual removal	35
T174	Sense of smell		17
T175	Sense of taste		17
T176	Spleen	In addition to scar	13
T177	Gall bladder		13
T178	Tooth	Minimum	1
T179	Loss of drainage duct of eye		
T180	(If corrected by prosthesis)		17 for each
T181	Loss of drainage duct of eye		
T182	(If uncorrected by prosthesis)		33 for each
T183	Pelvis		percentage of back
T184	<u>On and after July 1, 2025:</u>		
T185	<u>Intestinal tract</u>		<u>347</u>
T186	<u>Esophagus</u>		<u>180</u>
T187	<u>Cervical Spine</u>		<u>208</u>

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

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

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

40       [If] For any matter filed with the Workers' Compensation  
41 Commission on or after July 1, 1993, that remains open and pending



42 before said commission on the effective date of this section, and for any  
43 matter filed with said commission on and after the effective date of this  
44 section, (1) if the injury consists of the loss of a substantial part of a  
45 member resulting in a permanent partial loss of the use of a member, or  
46 if the injury results in a permanent partial loss of function, the  
47 administrative law judge [may, in the administrative law judge's  
48 discretion] shall, in lieu of other compensation, award to the injured  
49 employee the proportion of the sum provided in this subsection for the  
50 total loss of, or the loss of the use of, the member or for incapacity or  
51 both that represents the proportion of total loss or loss of use found to  
52 exist, and any voluntary agreement submitted in which the basis of  
53 settlement is such proportionate payment may, if otherwise  
54 conformable to the provisions of this chapter, be approved by the  
55 administrative law judge; [in the administrative law judge's discretion.]  
56 and (2) notwithstanding the provisions of this subsection, an injured  
57 employee who has reached maximum medical improvement and is  
58 eligible for benefits pursuant to this subsection, but whose injuries  
59 continue to result in total incapacity to work pursuant to section 31-307,  
60 shall continue to be eligible to receive total incapacity benefits pursuant  
61 to section 31-307 until such period of total incapacity ends.  
62 Notwithstanding the provisions of this subsection, the complete loss or  
63 loss of use of an organ which results in the death of an employee shall  
64 be compensable pursuant only to section 31-306, as amended by this act.

65 Sec. 5. Subdivision (6) of subsection (a) of section 31-306 of the general  
66 statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof  
67 (*Effective from passage*):

68 (6) In all cases where there are no presumptive dependents, but (A)  
69 where there are one or more persons wholly dependent in fact, the  
70 compensation in case of death shall be divided according to the relative  
71 degree of their dependence, or (B) where there are no persons wholly  
72 dependent in fact, the compensation shall be divided equally among the  
73 parents of the deceased employee. Compensation payable under this  
74 subdivision shall be paid for not more than three hundred and twelve

75 weeks from the date of the death of the employee. The compensation, if  
76 paid to those wholly dependent in fact, shall be paid at the full  
77 compensation rate. The compensation, if paid to those partially  
78 dependent in fact upon the deceased employee as of the date of the  
79 injury, shall not, in total, be more than the full compensation rate nor  
80 less than twenty dollars weekly, nor, if the average weekly sum  
81 contributed by the deceased at the date of the injury to those partially  
82 dependent in fact is more than twenty dollars weekly, not more than the  
83 sum so contributed.

84       Sec. 6. (*Effective from passage*) (a) There is established a working group  
85 to study rehabilitation services available to injured employees under  
86 chapter 568 of the general statutes. Such study shall include, but need  
87 not be limited to, an examination of (1) whether the provisions of  
88 chapter 568 of the general statutes adequately fund rehabilitation  
89 services for all injured employees, (2) methods to encourage injured  
90 employees to utilize such services, including providing stipends to  
91 injured employees who utilize such services, and (3) the provisions of  
92 section 31-308a of the general statutes, as amended by this act.

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

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

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

107 (3) The chairperson of the Workers' Compensation Commission, or  
108 the chairperson's designee; and

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

147 (f) Not later than February 1, 2026, the working group shall submit a  
148 preliminary report on its findings and recommendations to the joint  
149 standing committees of the General Assembly having cognizance of  
150 matters relating to the judiciary and labor and public employees, in  
151 accordance with the provisions of section 11-4a of the general statutes.  
152 Not later than January 1, 2027, the working group shall submit a final  
153 report on its findings and recommendations to the joint standing  
154 committees of the General Assembly having cognizance of matters  
155 relating to the judiciary and labor and public employees, in accordance  
156 with the provisions of section 11-4a of the general statutes. The working  
157 group shall terminate on the date that it submits such report or January  
158 1, 2027, whichever is later.

159 Sec. 7. Section 31-308a of the general statutes is repealed and the  
160 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from passage*):

161 (a) In addition to the compensation benefits provided by section 31-  
162 308, as amended by this act, for specific loss of a member or use of the  
163 function of a member of the body, or any personal injury covered by this  
164 chapter, the administrative law judge, after such payments provided by

165 said section 31-308 have been paid for the period set forth in said section,  
166 may award additional compensation benefits for such partial  
167 permanent disability equal to seventy-five per cent of the difference  
168 between the wages currently earned by an employee in a position  
169 comparable to the position held by such injured employee prior to his  
170 injury, after such wages have been reduced by any deduction for federal  
171 or state taxes, or both, and for the federal Insurance Contributions Act  
172 in accordance with section 31-310, and the weekly amount which such  
173 employee will probably be able to earn thereafter, after such amount has  
174 been reduced by any deduction for federal or state taxes, or both, and  
175 for the federal Insurance Contributions Act in accordance with section  
176 31-310, to be determined by the administrative law judge based upon  
177 the nature and extent of the injury, the training, education and  
178 experience of the employee, the availability of work for persons with  
179 such physical condition and at the employee's age, but not more than  
180 one hundred per cent, raised to the next even dollar, of the average  
181 weekly earnings of production and related workers in manufacturing in  
182 the state, as determined in accordance with the provisions of section 31-  
183 309. If evidence of exact loss of earnings is not available, such loss may  
184 be computed from the proportionate loss of physical ability or earning  
185 power caused by the injury. The duration of such additional  
186 compensation shall be determined upon a similar basis by the  
187 administrative law judge, but in no event shall the duration of such  
188 additional compensation exceed the lesser of (1) the duration of the  
189 employee's permanent partial disability benefits, or (2) five hundred  
190 twenty weeks. Additional benefits provided under this section shall be  
191 available only to employees who are willing and able to perform work  
192 in this state.

193 (b) Notwithstanding the provisions of subsection (a) of this section,  
194 additional benefits provided under this section shall be available [only]  
195 when the nature of the injury and its effect on the earning capacity of an  
196 employee warrant additional compensation.

197 (c) In addition to the benefits available under subsection (a) of this

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

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

Section 1	<i>from passage</i>	New section
Sec. 2	<i>from passage</i>	New section
Sec. 3	<i>from passage</i>	New section
Sec. 4	<i>from passage</i>	31-308(b)
Sec. 5	<i>from passage</i>	31-306(a)(6)
Sec. 6	<i>from passage</i>	New section
Sec. 7	<i>from passage</i>	31-308a