
OLR Bill Analysis

SB 1312

AN ACT IMPLEMENTING THE RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE LABOR DEPARTMENT.

SUMMARY

This bill:

1. decreases, from 60 to 40 days after a quarterly statement is provided, the amount of time an employer has to file a written protest with the Department of Labor (DOL) on the payment of unemployment insurance benefits due to fraud or error;
2. changes the unemployed workers' advocate from a position that serves at the labor commissioner's pleasure to a full-time position in the state employee classified service;
3. requires physicians and advanced practice registered nurses to report suspected occupational diseases to DOL (the provision is similar to one previously codified at CGS § 31-40a and repealed by PA 22-67); and
4. makes a technical change to the labor statutes.

EFFECTIVE DATE: October 1, 2025, for the provisions on an employer's protest of an unemployment statement (§ 1) and the unemployed workers' advocate position (§ 2), and upon passage for the reporting requirement (§ 3) and technical change (§ 4).

REPORT OF SUSPECTED OCCUPATIONAL DISEASE

The bill requires physicians and advanced practice registered nurses to report certain types of occupational illnesses to DOL. This includes illnesses from exposure to (1) lead, phosphorus, arsenic, brass, wood alcohol, mercury, or their compounds; (2) anthrax; (3) compressed air; or (4) any other disease contracted because of the nature of the

occupation of the person.

A physician or advanced practice registered nurse must, within 48 hours of discovering a suspected occupational disease, provide DOL with a report stating (1) the person's name, address, and occupation; (2) the employer's name, address, and business; (3) the nature of the disease; and (4) any other information required by DOL. The report is not admissible in court as evidence for a civil action or a workers' compensation claim. If the report is not made within the required timeframe, the labor commissioner may impose a civil penalty of up to \$10 on a physician or advanced practice registered nurse.

The labor commissioner may investigate and make recommendations on eliminating or preventing reported occupational diseases; and the information gathered by the commissioner is not admissible in court as evidence for a civil action or a workers' compensation claim.

BACKGROUND

Employer Quarterly Unemployment Statements

By law, DOL gives employers quarterly statements that generally show their charges for unemployment benefits paid to their former employees. An eligibility issue cannot be reopened based on these quarterly statements if the employer previously received a notification about the former employee's eligibility for benefits and failed to timely appeal it or the eligibility issue was resolved against the employer.

COMMITTEE ACTION

Labor and Public Employees Committee

Joint Favorable

Yea 11 Nay 2 (03/06/2025)