

Labor and Public Employees Committee

JOINT FAVORABLE REPORT

Bill No: HB-5278 / [Bill Status](#) / [Public Hearing Testimony](#)

Title: AN ACT REQUIRING UNINSURED AND UNDERINSURED MOTORIST
COVERAGE FOR DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION EMPLOYEES.

Vote Date: 3/12/2026

Vote Action: Joint Favorable

PH Date: 2/24/2026

File No.:

***Disclaimer:** The following JOINT FAVORABLE Report is prepared for the benefit of the members of the General Assembly, solely for purposes of information, summarization and explanation and does not represent the intent of the General Assembly or either chamber thereof for any purpose.*

SPONSORS OF BILL:

Labor & Public Employees Committee

REASONS FOR BILL:

The reason for this bill is to provide CT Department of Transportation employees to coverage in the event of a fatal accident on the job that was caused by an uninsured or underinsured driver. Department of Transportation workers are at an increased risk of being hit by drivers on the job due to the roles they perform, and when hit by an uninsured or underinsured driver, the family and dependents may not receive sufficient financial compensation through insurance, as opposed to state police, who are presently covered.

RESPONSE FROM ADMINISTRATION/AGENCY:

Garrett Eucalitto, Commissioner, CT Department of Transportation: Supports the bill as it would provide CTDOT employees with uninsured and underinsured coverage under the State Fleet Insurance Policy for up to one million dollars per person. State police officers currently have this coverage, but it does not extend to CTDOT workers. Between January 1, 2020, and December 31, 2025, there were 5,586 crashes and 18 fatalities in CT work zones. CTDOT vehicles are struck at an unacceptable rate and often workers require medical care as a result. CTDOL has lost 39 employees in the line of duty throughout their 131-year history. The most recent death occurred June 28, 2024.

NATURE AND SOURCES OF SUPPORT:

Shari DiDomenico, along with numerous family, friends, and DOT workers: They support passage of HB 5278. Tragically on June 28, 2024, Andrew DiDomenico a DOT worker was killed while working on the job. The assailant was operating a vehicle while under

the influence, with no insurance and no valid driver's license. Because the driver had no insurance no compensation was given to the family for their loss. State police who are in similar vulnerable situations have coverage and they feel DOT employees should have the same protections. The bill would remedy this situation by requiring the state to provide insurance coverage of up to 1 million dollars to employees of the DOT who are injured or killed by underinsured or uninsured vehicles.

18 individuals expressed their general support for this bill and for the family of Andrew DiDomenico.

Testimony was provided by:

- | | | |
|--------------------------|------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| 1. Sandra White | 2. Nathaniel Testroet | 3. Erin Testroet |
| 4. John Rich | 5. Jennifer Rich | 6. Carley Rich |
| 7. Pablo Perez | 8. Sandy Pawlowski | 9. Sophie Miranda |
| 10. Sam Miranda | 11. Paul Miranda | 12. Heather Miranda |
| 13. Wendy Infante | 14. Richard Gill | 15. Kathleen Gill |
| 16. Ruth Burchard | 17. Carl Chisem | 18 Vincenza DiDomenico |

Ed Hawthorne, President, Connecticut AFL-CIO: Supports the bill stating with fewer state police on the roads to enforce the law and drivers increasingly being distracted, DOT workers risk their lives every day they enter a work zone. This bill will the state to provide insurance if a DOT worker is injured or killed by and under or uninsured driver. DOT workers shouldn't also have to risk the financial wellbeing if they are injured or killed.

NATURE AND SOURCES OF OPPOSITION:

None provided

Reported by: Lawrence Sanchez

Date: 3/17/2026