

# Labor and Public Employees Committee

## JOINT FAVORABLE REPORT

**Bill No:** SB-350 / [Bill Status](#) / [Public Hearing Testimony](#)

AN ACT INCREASING THE PER DIEM RATE FOR MEMBERS OF THE STATE BOARD OF LABOR RELATIONS AND COMPENSATION FOR MEMBERS OF

**Title:** THE BOARD OF MEDIATION AND ARBITRATION.

**Vote Date:** 3/12/2026

**Vote Action:** Joint Favorable

**PH Date:** 3/3/2026

**File No.:**

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### SPONSORS OF BILL:

Labor & Public Employees Committee

### REASONS FOR BILL:

The reason for this bill is to adequately compensate members of the state board of mediation and arbitration for the work they perform for the state. The proponents of the bill state that this increased compensation would help attract better mediators and arbitrators.

### RESPONSE FROM ADMINISTRATION/AGENCY:

**Douglas Cho, Director, State Board of Mediation and Arbitration (SBMA) in conjunction with the Deputy Chairman, Dennis Murphy** submitted testimony in support of the bill because increasing the per diem rate would serve the public interest by allowing SBMA to attract and retain the best and brightest candidates. SBMA and the State have the same interest in attracting and retaining experienced and knowledgeable persons from the labor relations field to serve as arbitrators. The per diem rate has not been raised in ten (10) years. The present fee does not represent the market rate for arbitration service. Private sector entities and arbitrators typically charge \$1,500 to \$2,500 per day for their services. Increasing the rate for SBMA from \$325 to \$500 is justified and reasonable.

### NATURE AND SOURCES OF SUPPORT:

**Barbara J. Collins, Member of the CT State Board of Labor Relations along with two other board members** submitted written testimony supporting the bill would adjust the per diem rate for inflation; serve the public interest and assist the Labor Board to attract and

retain the best candidates for appointment as board members. Given the complex nature of the work and duties of the board members, recruitment and retention of optimal candidates is essential. The statutes under the Labor Board's jurisdiction govern labor relations for all public sectors; some private sector employers and CT unions, including first responders and public school teachers.

**Thomas Clifford, Alternate Member, State Board of Labor Relations** submitted written testimony supporting the bill stating that a fundamental aspect of the bill is to promote a fair adjustment in the Board's current per diem, which is currently \$150. The Bill also seems to place the Board in parity with the SBMA, the DOL sister board, which is currently \$325 per diem. Mr. Clifford request the Committee to support the bill.

**NATURE AND SOURCES OF OPPOSITION:**

None provided.

**Reported by: Lawrence Sanchez**

**Date: 3/24/2026**