

Labor and Public Employees Committee

JOINT FAVORABLE REPORT

Bill No: SB-356 / [Bill Status](#) / [Public Hearing Testimony](#)

AN ACT CONCERNING ELECTRONIC FILING OF CERTIFIED PAYROLL AND
Title: DAILY LOGS FOR CERTAIN PUBLIC WORKS PROJECTS.

Vote Date: 3/12/2026

Vote Action: Joint Favorable Substitute

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 ensure accuracy of payroll and worksite records on public works projects by requiring regular reporting, thus ensuring increased transparency and uniformity across worksites. The bill's supporters claim that this will help to ensure safety and fair pay on work sites.

SUBSTITUTE LANGUAGE (IF APPLICABLE):

The substitute language in LCO 3177 changes the reporting from monthly to weekly and pushes out the reporting effective dates.

RESPONSE FROM ADMINISTRATION/AGENCY:

Danté Bartolomeo, Commissioner, Department of Labor: Commissioner Bartolomeo states that Section 1 of the bill requires employers working on certain public works projects to submit certified payroll records electronically to CTDOL and maintain daily logs. She adds that Section 2 requires that CTDOL to engage a vendor to establish an online system for submission of certified payroll records. She states that while she supports the intent this would have a large fiscal impact on the agency. For these reasons Ms. Bartolomeo is in opposition of the bill.

NATURE AND SOURCES OF SUPPORT:

Nate Brown, Business Manager, Operating Engineers Local 478: Mr. Brown is in support of the bill. He states that the lack of consistency of contracting agency regarding the requirement for the submission of payrolls have some agencies maintaining payroll electronically and others dealing with paper records. He adds that he would like the committee to consider changing the submission of these records from monthly to weekly.

Michael Colombo, Business Manager, SMART Local 38: Mr. Colombo is in support of the bill. He believes that the bill is a cost-effective measure to modernize and strengthen Connecticut's prevailing wage compliance system. He claims that it improves oversight of how taxpayer dollars are being spent on public projects. He adds that the Freedom of Information request is outdated and takes too long to process. He states that many other states have passed similar legislation, so it makes sense that Connecticut pass it too.

Ed Hawthorne, President, Connecticut AFL-CIO: Mr. Hawthorne is in support of the bill. He states that Connecticut prevailing wage standards ensure that workers publicly funded projects receive fair wages and benefits. He claims that enforce prevailing wage standards effectively will streamline compliance, reduce errors, and increase transparency. He states that the bill will require certified payroll records and daily site logs to be submitted electronically.

Joelyn Leon, Executive Director of the Foundation, Fair Contracting of Connecticut (FFC): Ms. Leon is in support of the bill. She believes that the bill is a necessary modernization of Connecticut's prevailing wage enforcement system. She states that the bill eliminates that inconsistency by establishing a centralized electronic submission system for certified payroll records. She claims that this will streamline compliance and reduce unneeded paper. She adds that many other states have transitioned to electronic certified payroll reporting systems. She also asks the committee to consider amending the bill to have weekly submission rather than monthly to better ensure oversight and accuracy of records.

Joseph Toner, Executive Director, CT State Building Trades Council: Mr. Toner is in support of the bill. He states that currently there is no standard for how certified payroll records are submitted which creates unnecessary confusion. He believes that the bill will create a clear electronic submission system for certified payroll records through the Department of Labor. He adds that many other states have done the same, so it makes sense for Connecticut to follow their lead. He explains that the bill also will require contractors on prevailing wage projects to maintain daily workforce documentation, which will improve accountability.

Richard Cellar, Representative, Local 33 Insulators: Mr. Cellar is in support of the bill. He states that payroll records are handled through paper for many public works jobs, this causes confusion and delays. He believes that electronic filing will create consistency and clarity as well as modernize the system. He also believes that this is important to competition because contractors who invest in training, safety, and skilled labor are placed at a disadvantage to contractors who benefit from weak or inconsistent oversight.

Bill Finch, Director, CT Labor Mgt. Cooperation: Mr. Finch is in support of the bill. He states that almost everything is done according to modern technology until it comes to payroll. He explains that moving to a modern system will aid in management, streamline work, and save taxpayer dollars. He explains that Prevailing Wage law was passed in 1931 to

require that workers are paid fairly, however wage theft happens to often. He adds that Connecticut has benefited by the Foundation for Fair Contracting (FFC) who routinely monitors state funded projects and helps expose bad actors which prevents it from happening again.

Andrew Inorio, Business Manager: Mr. Inorio is in support of the bill. He states that certified payroll reporting is important to accountability and ensures compliance with wage laws, protects from wage theft and safeguards taxpayer dollars. However, he explains that reliance on paper-based system creates reveal unnecessary burdens. He states electronic submission will modernize the process which will solve these problems and add protections for workers. He also claims that this will have cost effective impacts in the future. He adds that several other states have already started or finished this process and have seen success.

Don Scoopo, Business Manager, Insulators Local 33: Mr. Scoopo is in support of the bill. He states that Connecticut's prevailing wage laws are only as strong as the system that enforce them, currently that system relies on paper filing which causes it to be slow. He believes the bill will strengthen this system by moving the system to an electronic based system. He states that other states have already begun to require this. He adds that a electronic based system will reduce unnecessary paperwork, accelerate review timelines, and provide clearer compliance standards. As well as reduce reliance on Freedom of Information requests.

NATURE AND SOURCES OF OPPOSITION:

Paul Amarone Senior, Policy Director, CBIA: Mr. Amarone is in opposition of the bill. He states that the bill would require employers on public works projects to submit monthly certified payroll records and require a public online search for these records. While he supports the intent of the bill he has many concerns with it. His first concerns are that the language does not appropriate funds for system procurement, require phased rollouts, or provide interim exceptions for small contractors. He explains that requiring industry-wide electronic conversion without these guardrails could create an unreliable system performance. He is also concerned that the bill adds another layer of payroll modeling many which many businesses are not equipped to produce monthly. He also raises issue with data-security for workers and employers because of the required publishing of daily logs. Mr. Amarone also is concerned about the bill turning failure to file certified payroll or daily logs in to a Class D felony because it can harm both workers and employers. He is also concerned about the impacts this will have on smaller contractors because without funded implementation plan and training assistance, small contractors could face outsized relative costs and compliance risk.

Reported by: Olivia Buczak

Date: 3/24/2026