

Labor and Public Employees Committee

JOINT FAVORABLE REPORT

Bill No: SB-357 / [Bill Status](#) / [Public Hearing Testimony](#)

Title: AN ACT CONCERNING UNEMPLOYMENT DEPENDENCY ALLOWANCE.

Vote Date: 3/19/2026

Vote Action: Joint Favorable

PH Date: 3/10/2026

File No.:

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SPONSORS OF BILL:

Labor & Public Employees Committee

REASONS FOR BILL:

The reason for this bill is to increase the unemployment dependency allowance from \$15 to \$45 weekly, as this number has not been increased since 1999, while associated costs of living, especially for those presently unemployed with dependents, have increased significantly. This would thus seek to ensure that the dependents of individuals on unemployment can receive basic necessities during said unemployment.

RESPONSE FROM ADMINISTRATION/AGENCY:

Dante Bartolomeo, Commissioner, CT Department of Labor: Submitted testimony stating that the bill would raise the dependency allowance from \$15 to \$45 per dependent. This would cost approximately \$380,000 to implement and would affect the Unemployment trust fund with additional payouts of \$12M per year. CTDOL states they appreciate the effective date of July 2028 would allow the project to be added to their queue.

NATURE AND SOURCES OF SUPPORT:

Ed Hawthorne, President, Connecticut AFL-CIO: Submitted testimony in support stating currently workers on unemployment may receive an additional weekly dependency allowance of \$15 per dependent. This allowance has not changed since 1999 and if it had been indexed for inflation it would be 103.25 today. The increase to \$45 would be modest.

NATURE AND SOURCES OF OPPOSITION:

Anonymous 12, 13, 14: Submitted testimony in opposition for reasons largely unrelated to the content of the bill and stated it would increase costs.

Reported by: Lawrence Sanchez

Date: 3/30/2026