

# Labor and Public Employees Committee

## JOINT FAVORABLE REPORT

**Bill No:** SB-443 / [Bill Status](#) / [Public Hearing Testimony](#)

AN ACT CONCERNING THE PROVISION OF SURVIVOR'S BENEFITS AND HEALTH INSURANCE COVERAGE TO FAMILY MEMBERS OF CORRECTION OFFICERS, COURT SUPPORT SERVICES DIVISION INVESTIGATORS, CRIMINAL JUSTICE DIVISION INVESTIGATORS AND OFFICE OF THE CHIEF

**Title:** PUBLIC DEFENDER INVESTIGATORS KILLED IN THE LINE OF DUTY.

**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 expand the existing Fallen Officer Fund benefits which include healthcare and survivor's benefits for law enforcement killed in the line of duty, to corrections officers and associated investigators that work in similar dangerous environments. This would ensure that if they are killed in the line of duty, their family members would be appropriately supported.

### RESPONSE FROM ADMINISTRATION/AGENCY:

**Sean Scanlon, State Comptroller, Office of the State Comptroller:** Comptroller Scanlon is in support of the bill. He states that in 2024 his office created the Fallen Officer Fund which provided lump sum nontaxable payment of \$100,000 and continued health insurance coverage to the family of a person who was killed in the line of duty. He believes that it is important to support these fallen heroes because of the service they give to our state. He asks the committee to amend the bill so that it reflects the changes made under Public Act 25-61 because it is current stands the bill does not account for the fact that the fund is now called the Fallen Hero Fund with expanded eligibility.

### NATURE AND SOURCES OF SUPPORT:

**Michael Adams, Legislative Assistant, AFSCME:** Mr. Adams is in support of the bill which he believes is an important step toward extending protections to correction officer members and investigator members. He explains that the bill ensures that the surviving spouse and dependent children of an officer killed in the line of duty can receive state health insurance coverage. He states that correction officers work in dangerous conditions and it helps to know if the state has their backs. He adds that the 58 is the average death age of a correction officer and every year many of them die on the job.

**Ed Hawthorne, President, Connecticut AFL-CIO:** Mr. Hawthorne is in support of the bill. He believes that the bill recognizes the sacrifices that corrections officers made and the hardships their families face if they lose them. He states that providing survivor benefits is a tangible way for the state to honor their service. He adds that these protections are similar to benefits provided in many other states for law enforcement.

**Michael Barry, Coordinator, CT COAL for Retirement Security:** Mr. Barry is in support of the bill. He states that the job of corrections officers and if they are killed in the line of duty, it is very difficult on their families. He believes that this bill would provide some peace of mind to officers and their families.

**Miles LaFemina, Correction Officer, AFSCME Local 1565:** Miles is in support of the bill. They state that everyday correction officers enter into dangerous environments with people that could be violent. They add that staffing shortages made the jobs harder, but these officers still return to work, and state that they appreciate the \$100,000 death benefit for the survivors of police officers and firefighters, but would like the committee to consider including corrections officers into this. They add that this bill is important to the surviving families of these officers.

**Anonymous 14:** Supports the bill for survivor benefits listed in the bill.

#### **NATURE AND SOURCES OF OPPOSITION:**

**Anonymous 12 and Anonymous 13:** Opposes the bill for reasons unrelated to the bill.

**Reported by: Olivia Buczak**

**Date: 3/31/2026**