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## OLR Bill Analysis

### sHB 5274

#### ***AN ACT CONCERNING STATE MARSHALS ELIGIBILITY FOR WORKERS' COMPENSATION WHILE PERFORMING DUTIES ON BEHALF OF THE STATE AND ELIGIBILITY FOR HEALTH INSURANCE WHILE OUT ON CERTAIN LEAVE.***

#### **SUMMARY**

This bill treats state marshals as state employees for the purpose of workers compensation (WC) benefits and certain hazardous duty disability compensation if they die, become disabled, or are injured while performing duties paid for by the state. It eliminates similar provisions for sheriffs, chief deputy sheriffs, deputy sheriffs, and special deputy sheriffs (these positions were eliminated and their duties and responsibilities transferred to state and judicial marshals in 2000).

For the purpose of calculating a state marshal's WC benefit, the bill (1) requires that the statewide average weekly wage of production and related manufacturing workers be used as the state marshal's average weekly wage and (2) prohibits prorating benefits based on a state marshal's other employment. Existing law applies these requirements to the calculation of supernumerary (part time) police officers' WC benefits. The bill does not specify how to calculate a state marshal's hazardous duty disability compensation.

Under existing law, state marshals working on average at least 20 hours weekly each quarter are eligible for state employee health insurance if they submit proof that they have met certain quarterly work requirements and do not have health insurance available in certain other ways (see BACKGROUND – *Health Insurance for State Marshals*). The bill requires state marshals to quarterly submit to the comptroller, on a form created by the State Marshal Commission, proof of approval or receipt of (1) WC benefits, (2) certain hazardous duty disability compensation, or (3) paid family and medical leave benefits. The bill

requires the comptroller to accept this proof as the state marshal's compliance with the state employee health insurance plan's quarterly requirements.

EFFECTIVE DATE: October 1, 2026

## **BACKGROUND**

### ***State Marshals***

State marshals serve civil process and their duties include performing evictions and serving and collecting wage executions and tax warrants.

### ***Hazardous Duty Disability Compensation***

By law, hazardous duty state employees injured under certain circumstances qualify for medical and hospital expenses and disability compensation that differs from workers' compensation, including 100% of pay benefits for a period of time (CGS § 5-142a).

### ***Health Insurance for State Marshals***

By law, state marshals may participate in the state employee health insurance plan, under the same terms and conditions, and paying the same amount, as active state employees under the State Employees Bargaining Agent Coalition (SEBAC) agreement. But those who work as a state marshal 20 hours per week or more on average, on a quarterly basis, must:

1. be actively engaged in serving (a) process for indigent parties who have the cost of serving process waived in civil or criminal matters; (b) protection orders for victims of domestic violence, sexual abuse, sexual assault, or stalking; or (c) capias mittimus orders (civil arrest warrants) issued by a family support magistrate;
2. certify the above facts for the preceding calendar quarter on forms provided by and filed with the State Marshal Commission by the 15th day of each April, July, October, and January; and
3. not have access to health insurance coverage through (a) their spouse's employer, if it meets certain criteria, or (b) the

Connecticut Municipal Employees Retirement System.

By law, a state marshal is disqualified from coverage under the state employee health insurance plan if the health insurance available through their spouse (1) has an actuarial value that at least equals the state employee plan; (2) provides similar access to in-network providers; and (3) is available at an employee premium share, for each class of coverage, that is no greater than the premium shares for active state employees under the SEBAC agreement.

**COMMITTEE ACTION**

Labor and Public Employees Committee

Joint Favorable Substitute

Yea 13 Nay 0 (03/12/2026)