



Substitute House Bill No. 5235

Public Act No. 22-79

AN ACT CONCERNING THE CONTENT OF REPORTS FROM THE OFFICE OF THE CLAIMS COMMISSIONER TO THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Assembly convened:

Section 1. Section 4-158 of the 2022 supplement to the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2022*):

(a) The Claims Commissioner may (1) order that a claim be denied or dismissed, (2) order immediate payment of a just claim in an amount not exceeding thirty-five thousand dollars, (3) recommend to the General Assembly payment of a just claim in an amount exceeding thirty-five thousand dollars, or (4) authorize a claimant to sue the state, as provided in section 4-160.

(b) Any person who has filed a claim for more than fifty thousand dollars may request the General Assembly to review a decision of the Claims Commissioner (1) ordering the denial or dismissal of the claim pursuant to subdivision (1) of subsection (a) of this section, including denying or dismissing a claim that requests permission to sue the state, or (2) ordering immediate payment of a just claim in an amount not exceeding thirty-five thousand dollars pursuant to subdivision (2) of

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subsection (a) of this section. A person who has filed a claim that has been denied or dismissed by a temporary deputy pursuant to subsection (d) of section 4-160, may request the General Assembly to review such denial or dismissal. A request for review shall be in writing and filed with the Office of the Claims Commissioner not later than twenty days after the date the person requesting such review receives a copy of the decision. The filing of a request for review shall automatically stay the decision of the Claims Commissioner or temporary deputy.

(c) The Office of the Claims Commissioner shall submit each claim for which a request for review is filed pursuant to this section to the General Assembly pursuant to section 4-159.

(d) If the Claims Commissioner orders immediate payment of a just claim in an amount not exceeding thirty-five thousand dollars pursuant to subdivision (2) of subsection (a) of this section and a request for review is not timely filed pursuant to subsection (b) of this section, the Office of the Claims Commissioner shall deliver to the Comptroller a certified copy of the Claims Commissioner's order and the Comptroller shall make payment from such appropriation as the General Assembly may have made for the payment of claims or, in the case of contractual claims for goods or services furnished or for property leased, from the appropriation of the agency which received such goods or services or occupied such property.

(e) Whenever the Claims Commissioner deems it just and equitable, the Claims Commissioner may, at any time prior to the submission of a claim to the General Assembly pursuant to subsection (a) of section 4-159, vacate the decision made pursuant to subsection (a) of this section and undertake such further proceedings in accordance with this chapter as the Claims Commissioner may, in his or her discretion, deem appropriate.

(f) Not later than five days after the convening of each regular session,

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the Office of the Claims Commissioner shall report to the General Assembly on all claims decided pursuant to this section during the preceding calendar year. Such report shall include, but not be limited to, the following information for the preceding calendar year: (1) The total number of new claims filed; (2) the total number of claims disposed of; (3) the total number of claims that were dismissed; (4) the total number of claims that were denied; (5) a description of each order of immediate payment of a just claim in an amount not exceeding thirty-five thousand dollars, which description shall minimally include, the name of the claimant, the amount paid to the claimant and the reasoning for the payment to the claimant; and (6) the total number of claimants who were authorized to sue the state.

Sec. 2. Section 4-159a of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2022*):

(a) (1) Not later than five days after the convening of each regular session, the [Office of the] Claims Commissioner shall report to the General Assembly on all claims that have been filed with the Office of the Claims Commissioner pursuant to section 4-147 and have not been disposed of by the Office of the Claims Commissioner within two years of the date of filing or within any extension thereof granted by the General Assembly pursuant to subsection (c) of this section, except claims in which the parties have stipulated to an extension of time for the Office of the Claims Commissioner to dispose of the claim. (2) The report submitted by the Claims Commissioner pursuant to subdivision (1) of this subsection shall minimally include (A) an explanation as to why the claim has not been disposed of, and (B) the date by which a decision will be rendered on the claim in the event the General Assembly were to grant the Office of the Claims Commissioner an extension of time to dispose of the claim.

(b) The Office of the Claims Commissioner shall give notice to all claimants whose claims are the subject of a report as provided in

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subsection (a) of this section that their claims will be considered at the next regular session of the General Assembly pursuant to subsection (c) of this section.

(c) With respect to any claim that is the subject of a report as provided in subsection (a) of this section, the General Assembly may (1) grant the Office of the Claims Commissioner an extension for a period specified by the General Assembly to dispose of such claim, (2) grant the claimant permission to sue the state, (3) grant an award to the claimant, or (4) deny the claim.

Approved May 24, 2022