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## **OLR Bill Analysis**

**sHB 6721 (as amended by House "A")\***

### ***AN ACT CONCERNING WORKERS' COMPENSATION AND PORTAL-TO-PORTAL COVERAGE FOR TELECOMMUNICATORS.***

#### **SUMMARY**

This bill extends “portal-to-portal” workers’ compensation coverage to telecommunicators (i.e., 9-1-1 emergency dispatchers) in three situations: (1) when they are subject to emergency calls while off duty by the terms of their employment, (2) when they are responding to a direct order to appear at their work assignment when nonessential employees are excused from working, or (3) after working two or more mandatory overtime shifts on consecutive days.

With “portal-to-portal” coverage, an injury that occurs while the employee is travelling directly between his or her home and workplace is deemed to have occurred in the course of the employee’s employment, making him or her eligible to receive workers’ compensation benefits for the injury. Existing law provides portal-to-portal coverage to police officers and firefighters whenever they are travelling directly between home and work. It also provides portal-to-portal coverage to Department of Correction employees when they are responding to a direct order to appear at their work assignment when nonessential employees are excused from working or after they have worked two or more mandatory overtime shifts on consecutive days.

\*House Amendment “A” replaces the underlying bill, which would have given the dispatchers portal-to-portal coverage whenever they were travelling directly between home and work.

EFFECTIVE DATE: October 1, 2023

#### **COMMITTEE ACTION**

Labor and Public Employees Committee

Joint Favorable Substitute

Yea 10 Nay 1 (02/28/2023)

Appropriations Committee

Joint Favorable

Yea 44 Nay 7 (05/01/2023)