

Labor and Public Employees Committee

JOINT FAVORABLE REPORT

Bill No.: SB-331

Title: AN ACT CONCERNING STATE MARSHALS' HEALTH BENEFITS.

Vote Date: 3/19/2024

Vote Action: Joint Favorable Substitute

PH Date: 3/5/2024

File No.:

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SPONSORS OF BILL:

Labor & Public Employees Committee

REASONS FOR BILL:

The reason for this bill is to allow state marshals who work at least 20 hours a week to purchase health insurance through the state exchange, at the current rate of other state employees. Presently, state marshals do not receive health insurance as a benefit, and this is credited as part of the reason for low recruitment and retention rates, and limited diversity. It is believed that passing this bill will allow marshals who work for the state for a minimum number of hours to receive the same health benefit options as other state employees.

RESPONSE FROM ADMINISTRATION/AGENCY:

None provided.

NATURE AND SOURCES OF SUPPORT:

Ed Hawthorne, President, CT AFL-CIO: expressed his support for the bill, stating that it positively impact recruitment and retention rates while diversifying the workforce. He also expressed the need for a larger marshal workforce, stating that making a state marshal position into a career can develop skillsets and relationships and that only those who receive healthcare coverage from a spouse, or second job can afford to perform the job at present.

Madison Beggs, CT State Marshal: expresses support for this bill as it would mitigate the dangers and risk that come with being a Marshal. He stated that there are many marshals over the age of 60, and very few under the age of 30, due to the difficult conditions and lack of health insurance.

Suzann Corbett, CT State Marshal: expresses support for this bill as it would make the job more appealing to others and mitigate the dangers and risk that come with being a Marshal. She described the difficulty in being a mother and working as a state marshal, which does not come with the presumed flexibility, and described it as an on-call position with significant risks. She shared a personal anecdote of a situation where she was nearly shot while serving a divorce paper, and reiterated that this job is performed without health benefits.

Zak Leavy, Legislative Director, AFSCME Council 4: expresses general support for this bill, and stated that the lack of health benefits impedes the ability to recruit new marshals from diverse backgrounds.

Brian Mezick, President, AFSCME Local 2193 State Marshals: expresses support for this bill stating that the profession is dangerous and requires long hours to perform important work for the State. He shared statistics regarding the demographics of Connecticut's state marshals and warned that there is an upcoming retirement wave within the marshal force. He stated that the addition of health benefits to the profession would remove barriers to entry for new marshals.

Authur Quinn, Chairman, CT State Marshals Advisory Board: expresses support for this bill stating it would ease the burden of medical bills that come with the profession. He shared a personal anecdote of being shot while serving a warrant, while paying for private health insurance with high deductibles. He described how over the last 10 years, the number of new marshals applying has gone from over 1,000 to only 144.

Lisa H. Stevenson, CT State Marshal: expresses support for this bill stating the demographics of the profession will shift with access to affordable insurance. She stated that the marshals are not representative of society, and that several new candidates have quit when they found out they would not receive health benefits.

NATURE AND SOURCES OF OPPOSITION:

None provided.

Reported by: Elyssa Romero

Date: 04/04/2024