General Assembly

Raised Bill No. 1220

January Session, 2025

LCO No. **1447**

Referred to Committee on LABOR AND PUBLIC EMPLOYEES

Introduced by:
(LAB)

AN ACT CONCERNING HEALTH BENEFITS FOR STATE MARSHALS.

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

Section 1. Subsections (a) to (l), inclusive, of section 5-259 of the general statutes are repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2025*):

(a) The Comptroller, with the approval of the Attorney General and of the Insurance Commissioner, shall arrange and procure a group hospitalization and medical and surgical insurance plan or plans for (1) state employees, (2) members of the General Assembly who elect coverage under such plan or plans, (3) participants in an alternate retirement program who meet the service requirements of section 5-162 or subsection (a) of section 5-166, (4) anyone receiving benefits under section 5-144 or from any state-sponsored retirement system, except the teachers' retirement system and the municipal employees retirement system, (5) judges of probate and Probate Court employees, (6) the surviving spouse, and any dependent children of a state police officer, a member of an organized local police department, a firefighter or a constable who performs criminal law enforcement duties who dies

before, on or after June 26, 2003, as the result of injuries received while acting within the scope of such officer's or firefighter's or constable's employment and not as the result of illness or natural causes, and whose surviving spouse and dependent children are not otherwise eligible for a group hospitalization and medical and surgical insurance plan. Coverage for a dependent child pursuant to this subdivision shall terminate no earlier than the end of the calendar year during whichever of the following occurs first, the date on which the child: Becomes covered under a group health plan through the dependent's own employment; or attains the age of twenty-six, (7) employees of the Capital Region Development Authority established by section 32-601, **[**and**]** (8) the surviving spouse and dependent children of any employee of a municipality who dies on or after October 1, 2000, as the result of injuries received while acting within the scope of such employee's employment and not as the result of illness or natural causes, and whose surviving spouse and dependent children are not otherwise eligible for a group hospitalization and medical and surgical insurance plan, and (9) state marshals. For purposes of **[**this**]** subdivision (8) of this subsection, "employee" means any regular employee or elective officer receiving pay from a municipality, "municipality" means any town, city, borough, school district, taxing district, fire district, district department of health, probate district, housing authority, regional workforce development board established under section 31-3k, flood commission or authority established by special act or regional council of governments. For purposes of subdivision (6) of this subsection, "firefighter" means any person who is regularly employed and paid by any municipality for the purpose of performing firefighting duties for a municipality on average of not less than thirty-five hours per week. The minimum benefits to be provided by such plan or plans shall be substantially equal in value to the benefits that each such employee or member of the General Assembly could secure in such plan or plans on an individual basis on the preceding first day of July. The state shall pay for each such employee and each member of the General Assembly covered by such plan or plans the portion of the premium charged for

such member's or employee's individual coverage and seventy per cent of the additional cost of the form of coverage and such amount shall be credited to the total premiums owed by such employee or member of the General Assembly for the form of such member's or employee's coverage under such plan or plans. On and after January 1, 1989, the state shall pay for anyone receiving benefits from any such state-sponsored retirement system one hundred per cent of the portion of the premium charged for such member's or employee's individual coverage and one hundred per cent of any additional cost for the form of coverage. The balance of any premiums payable by an individual employee or by a member of the General Assembly for the form of coverage shall be deducted from the payroll by the State Comptroller. The total premiums payable shall be remitted by the Comptroller to the insurance company or companies or nonprofit organization or organizations providing the coverage. The amount of the state's contribution per employee for a health maintenance organization option shall be equal, in terms of dollars and cents, to the largest amount of the contribution per employee paid for any other option that is available to all eligible state employees included in the health benefits plan, but shall not be required to exceed the amount of the health maintenance organization premium.

(b) The insurance coverage procured under subsection (a) of this section for active state employees, employees of the Connecticut Institute for Municipal Studies, anyone receiving benefits from any such state-sponsored retirement system, **[**and**]** members of the General Assembly and state marshals, who are over sixty-five years of age, may be modified to reflect benefits available to such employees or members pursuant to Social Security and medical benefits programs administered by the federal government, provided any payments required to secure such benefits administered by the federal government shall be paid by the Comptroller either directly to the employee or members or to the agency of the federal government authorized to collect such payments.

(c) On October 1, 1972, the Comptroller shall continue to afford

payroll deduction services for employees participating in existing authorized plans covering state employees until such time as the employee elects in writing to be covered by the plan authorized by subsection (a) of this section.

(d) Notwithstanding the provisions of subsection (a) of this section, the state shall pay for a member of any such state-sponsored retirement system, or a participant in an alternate retirement program who meets the service requirements of section 5-162 or subsection (a) of section 5-166, and who begins receiving benefits from such system or program on or after November 1, 1989, eighty per cent of the portion of the premium charged for his individual coverage and eighty per cent of any additional cost for his form of coverage. Upon the death of any such member, any surviving spouse of such member who begins receiving benefits from such system shall be eligible for coverage under this section and the state shall pay for any such spouse eighty per cent of the portion of the premium charged for his individual coverage and eighty per cent of any additional cost for his form of coverage.

(e) Notwithstanding the provisions of subsection (a) of this section, vending stand operators eligible for membership in the state employees retirement system pursuant to section 5-175a shall be eligible for coverage under the group hospitalization and medical and surgical insurance plans procured under this section, provided the cost for such operators' insurance coverage shall be paid by the Department of Aging and Disability Services from vending machine income pursuant to section 17a-818.

(f) The Comptroller, with the approval of the Attorney General and of the Insurance Commissioner, shall arrange and procure a group hospitalization and medical and surgical insurance plan or plans for any person who adopts a child from the state foster care system, any person who has been a foster parent for the Department of Children and Families for six months or more, and any dependent of such adoptive parent or foster parent who elects coverage under such plan or plans.

The Comptroller may also arrange for inclusion of such person and any such dependent in an existing group hospitalization and medical and surgical insurance plan offered by the state. Any adoptive parent or foster parent and any dependent who elects coverage shall pay one hundred per cent of the premium charged for such coverage directly to the insurer, provided such adoptive parent or foster parent and all such dependents shall be included in such group hospitalization and medical and surgical insurance plan. A person and his dependents electing coverage pursuant to this subsection shall be eligible for such coverage until no longer an adoptive parent or a foster parent. An adoptive parent shall be eligible for such coverage until the coverage anniversary date on or after whichever of the following occurs first, the date on which the child: Becomes covered under a group health plan through the dependent's own employment; or attains the age of twenty-six. As used in this section "dependent" means a spouse or natural or adopted child if such child is wholly or partially dependent for support upon the adoptive parent or foster parent.

(g) Notwithstanding the provisions of subsection (a) of this section, the Probate Court Administration Fund established in accordance with section 45a-82, shall pay for each probate judge and each probate court employee not more than one hundred per cent of the portion of the premium charged for the judge's or employee's individual coverage and not more than seventy per cent of any additional cost for the judge's or employee's form of coverage. The remainder of the premium for such coverage shall be paid by the probate judge or probate court employee to the State Treasurer. Payment shall be credited by the State Treasurer to the fund established by section 45a-82. The total premiums payable shall be remitted by the Probate Court Administrator directly to the insurance company or companies or nonprofit organization or organizations providing the coverage. The Probate Court Administrator shall issue regulations governing group hospitalization and medical and surgical insurance pursuant to subsection (b) of section 45a-77.

(h) For the purpose of subsection (g) of this section, "probate judge"

or "judge" means a duly elected probate judge who works in such judge's capacity as a probate judge at least twenty hours per week, on average, on a quarterly basis and certifies to that fact on forms provided by and filed with the Probate Court Administrator, on or before the fifteenth day of April, July, October and January, for the preceding calendar quarter; and "probate court employee" or "employee" means a person employed by a probate court for at least twenty hours per week.

(i) The Comptroller may provide for coverage of employees of municipalities, nonprofit corporations, community action agencies and small employers and individuals eligible for a health coverage tax credit, retired members or members of an association for personal care assistants under the plan or plans procured under subsection (a) of this section, provided: (1) Participation by each municipality, nonprofit corporation, community action agency, small employer, eligible individual, retired member or association for personal care assistants shall be on a voluntary basis; (2) where an employee organization represents employees of a municipality, nonprofit corporation, community action agency or small employer, participation in a plan or plans to be procured under subsection (a) of this section shall be by mutual agreement of the municipality, nonprofit corporation, community action agency or small employer and the employee organization only and neither party may submit the issue of participation to binding arbitration except by mutual agreement if such binding arbitration is available; (3) no group of employees shall be refused entry into the plan by reason of past or future health care costs or claim experience; (4) rates paid by the state for its employees under subsection (a) of this section are not adversely affected by this subsection; (5) administrative costs to the plan or plans provided under this subsection shall not be paid by the state; (6) participation in the plan or plans in an amount determined by the state shall be for the duration of the period of the plan or plans, or for such other period as mutually agreed by the municipality, nonprofit corporation, community action agency, small employer, retired member or association for personal care

assistants and the Comptroller; and (7) nothing in this section or section 12-202a, 38a-551 or 38a-556 shall be construed as requiring a participating insurer or health care center to issue individual policies to individuals eligible for a health coverage tax credit. The coverage provided under this section may be referred to as the "Municipal Employee Health Insurance Plan". The Comptroller may arrange and procure for the employees and eligible individuals under this subsection health benefit plans that vary from the plan or plans procured under subsection (a) of this section. Notwithstanding any provision of part V of chapter 700c, the coverage provided under this subsection may be offered on either a fully underwritten or risk-pooled basis at the discretion of the Comptroller. For the purposes of this subsection, (A) "municipality" means any town, city, borough, school district, taxing district, fire district, district department of health, probate district, housing authority, regional workforce development board established under section 31-3k, regional emergency telecommunications center, tourism district established under section 32-302, flood commission or authority established by special act, regional council of governments, transit district formed under chapter 103a, or the Children's Center established by number 571 of the public acts of 1969; (B) "nonprofit corporation" means (i) a nonprofit corporation organized under 26 USC 501 that has a contract with the state or receives a portion of its funding from a municipality, the state or the federal government, or (ii) an organization that is tax exempt pursuant to 26 USC 501(c)(5); (C) "community action agency" means a community action agency, as defined in section 17b-885; (D) "small employer" means a small employer, as defined in section 38a-564; (E) "eligible individuals" or "individuals eligible for a health coverage tax credit" means individuals who are eligible for the credit for health insurance costs under Section 35 of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, or any subsequent corresponding internal revenue code of the United States, as from time to time amended, in accordance with the Pension Benefit Guaranty Corporation; (F) "association for personal care assistants" means an organization composed of personal care attendants who are employed

by recipients of service (i) under the home-care program for the elderly under section 17b-342, (ii) under the personal care assistance program under section 17b-605a, (iii) in an independent living center pursuant to sections 17a-792 to 17a-794, inclusive, or (iv) under the program for individuals with acquired brain injury as described in section 17b-260a; and (G) "retired members" means individuals eligible for a retirement benefit from the Connecticut municipal employees' retirement system.

(j) (1) Notwithstanding any provision of law to the contrary, the existing rights and obligations of state employee organizations and the state employer under current law and contract shall not be impaired by the provisions of this section. (2) Other conditions of entry for any group into the plan or plans procured under subsection (a) of this section shall be determined by the Comptroller upon the recommendation of a coalition committee established pursuant to subsection (f) of section 5-278, except for such conditions referenced in subsection (g) of this section. (3) Additional determinations by the Comptroller on (A) issues generated by any group's actual or contemplated participation in the plan or plans, (B) modifications to the terms and conditions of any group's continued participation, (C) related matters shall be made upon the recommendation of such committee. (4) Notwithstanding any provision of law to the contrary, a municipal employer and an employee organization may upon mutual agreement reopen a collective bargaining agreement for the exclusive purpose of negotiating on the participation by such municipal employer or employee organization in the plan or plans offered under the provisions of this section.

(k) The Comptroller shall submit annually to the General Assembly a review of the coverage of employees of municipalities, nonprofit corporations, community action agencies, small employers under subsection (i) of this section and eligible individuals under subsection (i) of this section beginning February 1, 2004.

(l) (1) Effective July 1, 1996, any deputies or special deputies appointed pursuant to section 6-37 of the general statutes, revision of

1958, revised to 1999, or section 6-43, shall be allowed to participate in the plan or plans procured by the Comptroller pursuant to subsection (a) of this section. Such participation shall be voluntary and the participant shall pay the full cost of the coverage under such plan.

(2) (A) Effective **[**December 1, 2000**]** October 1, 2025, any state marshal who works in such state marshal's capacity as a state marshal for less than twenty hours per week, on average, shall be allowed to participate in the plan or plans procured by the Comptroller pursuant to subsection (a) of this section. Such participation shall be voluntary and the participant shall pay the full cost of the coverage under such plan.

(B) Effective October 1, 2025, any state marshal who (i) works in such marshal's capacity as a state marshal at least twenty hours per week, on average, on a quarterly basis, and (ii) is actively engaged in either (I) service of process under a waiver of fees issued pursuant to section 52-259b, (II) service of process of orders of protection issued pursuant to section 46b-15 or 46b-16a, or (III) service of capias mittimus orders issued by a family support magistrate pursuant to section 46b-231, (iii) certifies to those facts in clauses (i) and (ii) of this subparagraph on forms provided by and filed with the State Marshal Commission on or before the fifteenth day of April, July, October and January for the preceding calendar quarter, and (iv) does not have access to coverage under a health benefit plan that is available (I) through the employer of such state marshal's spouse and has an actuarial value that is equivalent to the actuarial value of the plan or plans procured by the Comptroller pursuant to subsection (a) of this section, or (II) through the municipal employees' retirement system established by part II of chapter 113 shall be allowed to participate in the plan or plans procured by the Comptroller pursuant to subsection (a) of this section. Such participation shall be voluntary and the participant shall pay the same amount for the coverage under such plan under the same terms and conditions as active state employees in accordance with the provisions of the State Employees Bargaining Agent Coalition agreement.

(3) Effective December 1, 2000, any judicial marshal shall be allowed to participate in the plan or plans procured by the Comptroller pursuant to subsection (a) of this section. Such participation shall be voluntary and the participant shall pay the full cost of the coverage under such plan unless and until the judicial marshals participate in the plan or plans procured by the Comptroller under this section through collective bargaining negotiations pursuant to subsection (f) of section 5-278.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	*October 1, 2025*	5-259(a) to (l)

Statement of Purpose:

To provide certain state marshals with medical insurance benefits in the same manner as other state employees.

[Proposed deletions are enclosed in brackets. Proposed additions are indicated by underline, except that when the entire text of a bill or resolution or a section of a bill or resolution is new, it is not underlined.]