



General Assembly

February Session, 2026

Raised Bill No. 5403

LCO No. 1422



Referred to Committee on PUBLIC SAFETY AND SECURITY

Introduced by:
(PS)

AN ACT CONCERNING HEALTH INSURANCE COVERAGE FOR SURVIVORS OF UNPAID VOLUNTEER FIREFIGHTERS, CORRECTION OFFICERS AND STATE MARSHALS.

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

1 Section 1. Subsection (i) of section 3-123bbb of the 2026 supplement
2 to the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu
3 thereof (*Effective October 1, 2026*):

4 (i) (1) A nonstate public employer that provides coverage pursuant to
5 a partnership plan to a first responder or unpaid volunteer firefighter
6 who is killed in the line of duty shall continue to provide such coverage
7 to the survivors of such first responder or unpaid volunteer firefighter
8 who were covered under such plan at the time of such first responder's
9 or unpaid volunteer firefighter's death. Such coverage shall continue
10 without break for a period of one year after such first responder's or
11 unpaid volunteer firefighter's death, and may be renewed annually for
12 up to five years. Such nonstate public employer shall facilitate
13 continuation and renewal of such coverage. For purposes of this
14 subsection, "unpaid volunteer firefighter" has the same meaning as

15 provided in section 5-259, as amended by this act.

16 (2) A nonstate public employer that did not provide coverage
17 pursuant to a partnership plan to a first responder or unpaid volunteer
18 firefighter who is killed in the line of duty shall apply for coverage
19 pursuant to a partnership plan for those survivors of such first
20 responder or unpaid volunteer firefighter who were receiving health
21 care benefit coverage through a plan offered to such first responder or
22 unpaid volunteer firefighter at the time of such first responder's or
23 unpaid volunteer firefighter's death, at the request of such survivors.
24 The Comptroller shall accept such application upon the terms and
25 conditions applicable to the partnership plan for enrollment and
26 provision of coverage to such survivors for one year. Such enrollment
27 and coverage may be renewed annually for up to five years. Such
28 nonstate public employer shall facilitate initiation and renewal of such
29 enrollment and coverage.

30 Sec. 2. Subsection (a) of section 5-259 of the 2026 supplement to the
31 general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu
32 thereof (*Effective October 1, 2026*):

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

47 before, on or after June 26, 2003, as the result of injuries received while
48 acting within the scope of such officer's, [or] firefighter's, unpaid
49 volunteer firefighter's, correction officer's, state marshal's or constable's
50 employment and not as the result of illness or natural causes, and whose
51 surviving spouse and dependent children are not otherwise eligible for
52 a group hospitalization and medical and surgical insurance plan.
53 Coverage for a dependent child pursuant to this subdivision shall
54 terminate no earlier than the end of the calendar year during whichever
55 of the following occurs first, the date on which the child: Becomes
56 covered under a group health plan through the dependent's own
57 employment; or attains the age of twenty-six, (7) employees of the
58 Capital Region Development Authority established by section 32-601,
59 (8) the surviving spouse and dependent children of any employee of a
60 municipality who dies on or after October 1, 2000, as the result of
61 injuries received while acting within the scope of such employee's
62 employment and not as the result of illness or natural causes, and whose
63 surviving spouse and dependent children are not otherwise eligible for
64 a group hospitalization and medical and surgical insurance plan, and
65 (9) state marshals. For purposes of subdivision (8) of this subsection,
66 "employee" means any regular employee or elective officer receiving
67 pay from a municipality, "municipality" means any town, city, borough,
68 school district, taxing district, fire district, district department of health,
69 probate district, housing authority, regional workforce development
70 board established under section 31-3k, flood commission or authority
71 established by special act or regional council of governments. For
72 purposes of subdivision (6) of this subsection, "correction officer" means
73 an individual employed by the Department of Correction as a correction
74 officer, "firefighter" means any person who is regularly employed and
75 paid by any municipality for the purpose of performing firefighting
76 duties for a municipality on average of not less than thirty-five hours
77 per week and "unpaid volunteer firefighter" means a uniformed
78 member of a fire department who performs firefighting duties for the
79 fire department but is unpaid for performing such firefighting duties.
80 The minimum benefits to be provided by such plan or plans shall be

81 substantially equal in value to the benefits that each such employee or
82 member of the General Assembly could secure in such plan or plans on
83 an individual basis on the preceding first day of July. The state shall pay
84 for each such employee and each member of the General Assembly
85 covered by such plan or plans the portion of the premium charged for
86 such member's or employee's individual coverage and seventy per cent
87 of the additional cost of the form of coverage and such amount shall be
88 credited to the total premiums owed by such employee or member of
89 the General Assembly for the form of such member's or employee's
90 coverage under such plan or plans. On and after January 1, 1989, the
91 state shall pay for anyone receiving benefits from any such state-
92 sponsored retirement system one hundred per cent of the portion of the
93 premium charged for such member's or employee's individual coverage
94 and one hundred per cent of any additional cost for the form of
95 coverage. The balance of any premiums payable by an individual
96 employee or by a member of the General Assembly for the form of
97 coverage shall be deducted from the payroll by the State Comptroller.
98 The total premiums payable shall be remitted by the Comptroller to the
99 insurance company or companies or nonprofit organization or
100 organizations providing the coverage. The amount of the state's
101 contribution per employee for a health maintenance organization option
102 shall be equal, in terms of dollars and cents, to the largest amount of the
103 contribution per employee paid for any other option that is available to
104 all eligible state employees included in the health benefits plan, but shall
105 not be required to exceed the amount of the health maintenance
106 organization premium.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	<i>October 1, 2026</i>	3-123bbb(i)
Sec. 2	<i>October 1, 2026</i>	5-259(a)

Statement of Purpose:

To provide health insurance coverage for survivors of unpaid volunteer firefighters, correction officers and state marshals.

[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.]