



General Assembly

February Session, 2020

Raised Bill No. 5387

LCO No. 1871



Referred to Committee on LABOR AND PUBLIC EMPLOYEES

Introduced by:
(LAB)

AN ACT CONCERNING WORKERS' COMPENSATION BENEFITS FOR MEMBERS OF UNDERWATER SEARCH AND RESCUE TEAMS AND CANINE SEARCH AND RESCUE TEAMS.

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

- 1 Section 1. (NEW) (*Effective October 1, 2020*) (a) As used in this
2 section: (1) "Underwater search and rescue team" means individuals,
3 whether volunteer or employed by a municipality, that provide
4 underwater searches for personal property, evidence, and drowned
5 persons and conduct or assist in water-related rescues of individuals at
6 the request and under the direction of a municipality; and "volunteer
7 canine search and rescue team" means an individual and a dog (A)
8 appropriately trained and certified to engage in search and rescue
9 operations by a nonprofit canine search and rescue organization that is
10 a member of the National Association of Search and Rescue, or its
11 successor organization, and (B) who jointly engage in such operations
12 at the request of a police or fire department and provide services
13 without compensation.
- 14 (b) Any active member of an underwater search and rescue team or

15 a volunteer canine search and rescue team who performs search and
16 rescue duties for a municipality or municipalities shall be construed to
17 be an employee of the state for the purpose of receiving compensation
18 in accordance with the provisions of chapter 568 for death, disability or
19 injury incurred while performing such search and rescue duties.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	<i>October 1, 2020</i>	New section

Statement of Purpose:

To provide workers' compensation coverage for members of underwater search and rescue teams and canine search and rescue teams.

[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.]