



General Assembly

**Substitute Bill No. 5883**

January Session, 2019



**AN ACT CONCERNING WORKERS' COMPENSATION INSURANCE  
COVERAGE FOR DETOXIFICATION FOR CERTAIN INJURED  
EMPLOYEES, LOCAL AND REGIONAL BOARD OF EDUCATION  
EMPLOYEE NOTICES AND REIMBURSEMENT OF LOST WAGES FOR  
APPEARANCE AT A DEPOSITION.**

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

1 Section 1. Subdivision (12) of section 31-275 of the general statutes is  
2 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective*  
3 *October 1, 2019*):

4 (12) "Medical and surgical aid or hospital and nursing service",  
5 when requested by an injured employee and approved by the  
6 commissioner, includes (A) treatment by prayer or spiritual means  
7 through the application or use of the principles, tenets or teachings of  
8 any established church without the use of any drug or material  
9 remedy, provided sanitary and quarantine regulations are complied  
10 with, and provided all those ministering to the injured employee are  
11 bona fide members of such church, and (B) detoxification treatment for  
12 an injured employee who, as a result of a personal injury arising out of  
13 and in the course of his or her employment, consumes opioid drugs  
14 prescribed in the course of medical treatment for such injury for a  
15 continuous period of not less than one year.

16 Sec. 2. Subsection (a) of section 31-294c of the general statutes is

17 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective*  
18 *October 1, 2019*):

19 (a) No proceedings for compensation under the provisions of this  
20 chapter shall be maintained unless a written notice of claim for  
21 compensation is given within one year from the date of the accident or  
22 within three years from the first manifestation of a symptom of the  
23 occupational disease, as the case may be, which caused the personal  
24 injury, provided, if death has resulted within two years from the date  
25 of the accident or first manifestation of a symptom of the occupational  
26 disease, a dependent or dependents, or the legal representative of the  
27 deceased employee, may make claim for compensation within the two-  
28 year period or within one year from the date of death, whichever is  
29 later. Notice of claim for compensation may be given to the employer  
30 or any commissioner and shall state, in simple language, the date and  
31 place of the accident and the nature of the injury resulting from the  
32 accident, or the date of the first manifestation of a symptom of the  
33 occupational disease and the nature of the disease, as the case may be,  
34 and the name and address of the employee and of the person in whose  
35 interest compensation is claimed. An employee of the state shall send a  
36 copy of the notice to the Commissioner of Administrative Services. An  
37 employee of a municipality shall send a copy of the notice to the town  
38 clerk of the municipality in which he or she is employed, and in the  
39 case of an employee of a local or regional board of education, shall  
40 send a copy of the notice to the local or regional board of education  
41 that employs the employee. An employer, other than the state or a  
42 municipality, may opt to post a copy of where notice of a claim for  
43 compensation shall be sent by an employee in the workplace location  
44 where other labor law posters required by the Labor Department are  
45 prominently displayed. In addition, an employer, opting to post where  
46 notice of a claim for compensation by an employee shall be sent, shall  
47 forward the address of where notice of a claim for compensation shall  
48 be sent to the Workers' Compensation Commission and the  
49 commission shall post such address on its Internet web site. An  
50 employer shall be responsible for verifying that information posted at

51 a workplace location is consistent with the information posted on the  
52 commission's Internet web site. If an employee, other than an  
53 employee of the state or a municipality, opts to mail to his or her  
54 employer the written notice of a claim for compensation required  
55 under the provisions of this section, such written notice shall be sent  
56 by the employee to the employer by certified mail. As used in this  
57 section, "manifestation of a symptom" means manifestation to an  
58 employee claiming compensation, or to some other person standing in  
59 such relation to him that the knowledge of the person would be  
60 imputed to him, in a manner that is or should be recognized by him as  
61 symptomatic of the occupational disease for which compensation is  
62 claimed.

63 Sec. 3. Subsection (b) of section 31-312 of the general statutes is  
64 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective*  
65 *October 1, 2019*):

66 (b) When a claimant is given notice to appear at a conference,  
67 deposition or [an] informal hearing before a commissioner and does  
68 appear, he shall be entitled to reimbursement of wages lost by reason  
69 of the appearance if he is not then receiving compensation for the  
70 appearance as provided in this subsection. When liability or extent of  
71 disability is contested by formal hearing before the commissioner, the  
72 claimant shall be entitled, if he prevails on final judgment, to payment  
73 for services rendered him by a competent physician or surgeon for  
74 examination, x-ray, medical tests and testimony in connection with the  
75 claim, the commissioner to determine the reasonableness of the  
76 charges, and he shall be entitled to receive payment of one-fifth of the  
77 weekly compensation, as computed in accordance with section 31-310,  
78 for each day, or part thereof, that he is in attendance at the formal  
79 hearing if he is not then receiving compensation.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:

Section 1	<i>October 1, 2019</i>	31-275(12)
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Sec. 2	<i>October 1, 2019</i>	31-294c(a)
Sec. 3	<i>October 1, 2019</i>	31-312(b)

**LAB**      *Joint Favorable Subst.*