

# STATE OF NEW YORK

2703

2023-2024 Regular Sessions

## IN SENATE

January 24, 2023

Introduced by Sen. HARCKHAM -- read twice and ordered printed, and when printed to be committed to the Committee on Transportation

AN ACT to amend the public authorities law, in relation to providing benefits to Metro-North employees involved in or who witness a serious injury or fatality of another person in the course of an assigned duty

The People of the State of New York, represented in Senate and Assembly, do enact as follows:

1 Section 1. The public authorities law is amended by adding a new  
2 section 1266-m to read as follows:

3 § 1266-m. Benefits for employees involved in or who witness serious  
4 injuries or fatalities of another person in the course of an assigned  
5 duty. 1. For any employee of the Metro-North Commuter Railroad Company  
6 who witnesses or is otherwise involved in a serious injury or fatality  
7 of another person through the course of his or her assigned duty,  
8 Metro-North shall provide mandatory benefits, including but not limited  
9 to:

10 (a) seven consecutive working days of paid leave, beginning the imme-  
11 diat subsequent day the employee is scheduled to work, excluding the  
12 employee's regularly scheduled days off;

13 (b) mental health services, including counseling, at the option of the  
14 employee; and

15 (c) a mandatory mental health examination conducted by the employee's  
16 health care provider before being approved to return to work, with up to  
17 four additional weeks of paid leave, if recommended by his or her health  
18 care provider.

19 2. Such employee shall be compensated by Metro-North at an amount not  
20 less than the employee would have earned on the assignment they would  
21 have worked until such employee has used his or her full allotment of  
22 mandated time off pursuant to this section.

23 § 2. This act shall take effect immediately.

EXPLANATION--Matter in italics (underscored) is new; matter in brackets  
[-] is old law to be omitted.

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