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### Audit Sought On State Employees' Overtime

#### Senate Minority Leader Cites Courant Report On Size Of Pension For Ex-Officer At Mental Hospital

By JON LENDER, [jlender@courant.com](mailto:jlender@courant.com)

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Senate Minority Leader John McKinney is calling on Gov. Dannel P. Malloy to order an audit of state employees' overtime pay, citing a Sunday Courant report that a former police lieutenant at a state hospital in Middletown has begun collecting a \$73,800 pension after being fired March 24 for allegedly falsifying overtime hours.

The pension of the former employee, Benjamin Quinones, is much higher than it would have been because of heavy overtime payments he received beyond his regular pay of \$84,759. Pensions are calculated based on an employee's three highest-paid, 12-month periods; Quinones' average for those was \$148,600, including overtime.

"This kind of abuse of our public pension system must end," McKinney, R-Fairfield, wrote Tuesday to Malloy, a Democrat.

McKinney said Republicans proposed legislation this year "that would have ended the practice of using overtime to inflate public employee pensions," but instead Malloy negotiated a concession package with unions that "did nothing to address the abusive use of overtime to inflate lifetime pension payments."

Malloy spokeswoman Colleen Flanagan said the governor has no plans to order an audit. She said Malloy "shares Sen. McKinney's concern, which is why, among other things, he proposed the reorganization of the Higher Education system to prevent high-level executives from gaming the system, and ... ended overtime compensation his Executive Office employees."

She said Malloy has told every commissioner to run "an agency that is leaner and does more with less, including a thorough review of use and need of overtime pay."

"I think this example requires more intense and more definitive action," McKinney said Wednesday. He said he may revive the idea of legislation to ban use of overtime to inflate pensions in any special

session that may be called on the state budget.

Quinones, who worked at Connecticut Valley Hospital, was able to retire at age 42 because "hazardous duty" employees like police qualify for pensions after 20 years of work, at any age. Quinones was accused by the Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services with claiming 528 more overtime hours than he really worked.

Quinones is appealing, but in the meantime his first monthly pension check for about \$6,150 was sent April 30. State police are investigating.

"As this case clearly demonstrates, allowing state employees to pad their pensions with overtime ... encourages fraud and abuse," McKinney wrote. "Amazingly, according to the Hartford Courant, Lt. Quinones' supervisors 'relied on the integrity and honesty of Lt. Quinones to accurately report his overtime ...!'"

He asked Malloy to order all state agencies to audit overtime where employees' claimed overtime exceeds 10 percent of normal hours, and to "adopt policies and procedures to ensure" that all employees' overtime hours are "documented, reviewed and verified" by a supervisor.