



HOUSE COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS

FISCAL NOTE

HOUSE BILL NO. 319

PRINTERS NO. 324

PRIME SPONSOR: Knowles

FUND	COST / (SAVINGS)	
	FY 2014/15	FY 2015/16
Administration Fund	See "Fiscal Impact"	See "Fiscal Impact"
General Fund	\$0	\$0
Unemployment Compensation Trust Fund	\$0	\$0

SUMMARY: Provides for the procurement of written testimony/audio recordings by parties of an Unemployment Compensation (UC) appeals hearing. This legislation would take effect in 60 days.

ANALYSIS: This legislation amends Section 502 ("Decision of Referee; Further Appeals and Reviews") of the PA Unemployment Compensation Law to require that the testimony at any hearing before an unemployment compensation referee be taken by a recording device, and that an unabridged transcript and audio recording of the testimony be made available to any party (and their attorneys or other representative) upon written request. The requesting party must only pay for the transcript/recording if they do not intend to use it for unemployment compensation purposes or to file a subsequent appeal.

The legislation also amends Section 504 ("Powers of Board Over Claims") of the PA Unemployment Compensation Law to require that the testimony at any hearing before the Unemployment Compensation Board of Review (Board) be taken by reporter and a recording device, and that an unabridged transcript and audio recording of the testimony be made available to any party (and their attorneys or other representative) upon written request to the Board. The requesting party must only pay for the transcript/recording if they do not intend to use it for unemployment compensation purposes or to file a subsequent appeal.

FISCAL IMPACT: This legislation would have no adverse fiscal impact on the General Fund or the Unemployment Compensation Trust Fund.

According to the Department of Labor and Industry, this legislation would cost approximately \$130,102 annually to the federally-funded Administration Fund to produce audio recordings upon written request. This estimate takes into account the cost of a CD, packaging for mailing, and postage which is estimated to be \$2.89 per copy. In 2014, the Board produced 14,526 transcripts. UC referees issued 91,478 decisions in 2014. Providing audio copies of the 14,526 Board-produced transcripts would cost approximately \$41,980. The Department estimates that parties from 1/3 of the referee decisions (30,492 of the 91,478 decisions) would request an audio recording of the hearing which would cost \$88,122.

PREPARED BY: Tim Rodrigo
House Appropriations Committee (R)

DATE: March 3, 2015

Estimates are calculated using the best information available. Actual costs and revenue impact incurred may vary from estimates.