



HOUSE COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS

FISCAL NOTE

HOUSE BILL NO. 178

PRINTERS NO. 1370

PRIME SPONSOR: James

COST / (SAVINGS)

FUND	FY 2020/21	FY 2021/22
Administration Fund	\$0	\$0
Unemployment Compensation Benefit Fund	\$0	\$0

SUMMARY: Increases the time allotted for parties to appeal unemployment compensation (UC) determinations and includes changes for the new benefit modernization project. This legislation would take effect when the Department of Labor and Industry (DLI) publishes notice in the PA Bulletin upon the completion of the technological upgrades to the delivery system for UC benefits.

ANALYSIS: This legislation increases the time allotted for parties to appeal unemployment compensation (UC) determinations from 15 days to 21 days and includes changes for the new benefit modernization project.

Appeals Deadlines: This legislation provides additional time for parties (claimants or employers) to file appeals in the UC system. A party will have:

- 21 days to appeal the determination of a UC Service Center to a UC referee.
- 21 days to appeal decision of a UC Referee to the UC Board of Review.

The changes will apply to determinations and decisions issued after DLI implements modifications to the delivery system for UC benefits (Benefit Modernization). DLI is required to publish notice in the PA Bulletin upon the completion of the modifications, and the increased timeframe to file appeals will take effect when the notice is published.

Electronic Determinations: This legislation amends Sections 501 and 502 of the UC Law to authorize UC notices, determinations and decisions to be delivered by mail or electronically to employers and claimants, as designated by the recipient.

Technical/Conforming Changes:

- Section 206(a) – The timeframe employers are required to keep employment records is increased from four to six years.
- Section 401(a)(2) – A technical correction is made to reference the appropriate section of law.
- Section 404(e) – Technical corrections are made to provisions for the update of the benefit chart, so that the chart can be expanded as benefit rates grow in accordance with the law.
- Section 1307 – Removes the reference to biweekly benefit payments in the Shared Work Program.

FISCAL IMPACT: This legislation would have no adverse fiscal impact on Commonwealth funds.

PREPARED BY: Tim Rodrigo
House Appropriations Committee (R)

DATE: June 25, 2021

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