



## HOUSE COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS

# FISCAL NOTE

HOUSE BILL NO. 1446

PRINTER'S NO. 2726

PRIME SPONSOR: Mackenzie

### COST / (SAVINGS)

FUND	FY 2023/24	FY 2024/25
General Fund	\$0	\$0

#### SUMMARY:

Amends Act 1 of 1937, the Unemployment Compensation Law, to provide for eligibility related to domestic violence.

#### ANALYSIS:

House Bill 1446, Printer's Number 2726 amends Act 1 of 1937, known as the Unemployment Compensation Law, to make victims of domestic violence eligible to receive unemployment benefits if they voluntarily leave employment due to a belief that continued employment would jeopardize the safety of the individual or a member of the individual's family or household.

The bill specifies the forms of documentation or other evidence an individual may use to verify they are a victim of domestic violence, including an active protective order, other court documentation, statements from a qualified professional, self-affirmation, or any other reasonable form of evidence.

The Department of Labor and Industry (Department) is required to grant relief for benefit charges to employers unless the Department determines the domestic violence situation is attributable to the employment with the base year employer. The Department is also charged with consulting with the Office of Victim Advocate and relevant advocacy groups regarding implementation of the legislation.

The act will take effect in six months.

#### FISCAL IMPACT:

Based on various judicial rulings, the threat of domestic violence is already deemed a "necessitous and compelling reason" for work separation. As such, victims of domestic violence are already eligible for unemployment benefits. This bill would codify this practice into law but would have no fiscal impact to the commonwealth.

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House Appropriations Committee (D)

**DATE:** March 25, 2024

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