

**SENATE APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE  
FISCAL NOTE**

**BILL NO.** House Bill 129

**PRINTER NO.** 2718

**AMOUNT**

\$760,000

**FUND**

Unemployment Compensation  
Administration Fund

**DATE INTRODUCED**

February 11, 2021

**PRIME SPONSOR**

Representative Cox

**DESCRIPTION**

House Bill 129 amends the Unemployment Compensation (UC) Law to modernize methods by which UC hearings are held.

This legislation directs the UC Board of Review (board) to update rules and provide for a transition to videoconference platform within three years. The board is required to promulgate final regulations within three years of the effective date of this legislation.

The bill provides that hearings must be conducted by videoconference, telephone or other electronic means unless a party requests an in-person hearing. The Department of Labor and Industry is required to assist in facilitating access for parties and witnesses that request assistance gaining access to hearings. Any existing regulations that are inconsistent with this legislation, the temporary rules or the new regulations are abrogated.

This bill is effective in 60 days.

**FISCAL IMPACT:**

House Bill 129 is estimated to have a \$760,000 cost in the first fiscal year and a \$164,000 annual cost thereafter. The department estimates \$596,000 in one-time costs for equipment and installation and anticipates \$164,000 per year in additional mail costs.