

SENATE APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE FISCAL NOTE

BILL NO. House Bill 178

PRINTER NO. 1370

AMOUNT

No Fiscal Impact

FUND

Unemployment Compensation Benefit Fund

DATE INTRODUCED

January 15, 2021

PRIME SPONSOR

Representative James

DESCRIPTION

House Bill 178 amends the Unemployment Compensation Law to extend the time period for appeals, makes technical corrections to Act 144 of 2016 and makes necessary changes in preparation of the benefit system “go-live”.

This bill extends the records retainment requirement from four years to six years to match the change for the statute of limitations for employer audits. Language that was erroneously removed in Act 144 of 2016 is returned and reestablishes the process for how the benefit rate table is determined. Technical changes are also made to update section references within the law.

The legislation also extends the window for employers and employees to appeal determinations of an Unemployment Compensation referee or the Unemployment Compensation Service Center from 15 days to 21 days. It allows for the transmission of determinations electronically.

The changes to this act affect employer records generated, determinations issued, and decisions issued after the publication in the Pennsylvania Bulletin of the Department of Labor and Industry’s (department) notice of completion of the technological upgrades to the benefit delivery system for Unemployment Compensation benefits.

FISCAL IMPACT:

House Bill 178 will have no fiscal impact on the Unemployment Compensation Benefit Fund. The timeframe is extended for both employees and employers and will not change benefits or add any additional administrative work for the department.