

GREEN SHEET REDIGEST

HB 66

2020 Second Extraordinary Session

Beullieu

UNEMPLOYMENT COMP: Provides relative to the state's unemployment insurance program and data sharing (Item #64)

DIGEST

Proposed law defines terms for the purposes of proposed law.

Proposed law provides that the La. Workforce Commission (LWC) shall be tasked with the responsibility of enhancing the integrity of the state's unemployment insurance program.

Proposed law provides that in order to ensure the integrity of the unemployment insurance program and to verify eligibility to prevent fraudulent filing and payment of claims, LWC shall do all of the following:

- (1) LWC may use other commercially available database solutions to check new hire records against the state's unemployment insurance rolls on a weekly basis.
- (2) LWC, on a weekly basis, shall check new hire records against the National Directory of New Hires.
- (3) LWC shall check the Integrity Data Hub or another commercially available database.
- (4) LWC, on a weekly basis, shall check the unemployment insurance rolls against the La. Dept. of Public Safety and Corrections' list of incarcerated individuals.

Proposed law provides when LWC receives information concerning an individual who is participating in the unemployment compensation insurance program that indicates a change in circumstances that may affect his eligibility, LWC shall review the individual's case and make a final determination of his eligibility in accordance with the provisions in present law.

Proposed law requires LWC to provide an annual report to the legislature to include all of the following:

- (1) The department's rate of consistency in performing the weekly checks against the Integrity Data Hub or another commercially available database and the National Directory of New Hires.
- (2) The type and amount of improper payments detected retroactively.
- (3) The type and amount of improper payments prevented.
- (4) The dollar amount the state has saved in preventing improper payments and, if any, in recuperating improper payments.

Proposed law provides that LWC shall be the authority to execute a memorandum of understanding with any, within reason, state department, agency, or division for data that is necessary to carry out the purposes outlined in proposed law.

Proposed law provides that LWC shall promulgate all rules and regulations necessary for the purposes of carrying out the provisions under proposed law.

Proposed law provides that proposed law shall be known and may be cited as the "Unemployment Insurance Program Integrity Act of 2020" and that the purpose of proposed law is to enhance program integrity for the state's unemployment insurance program.

Effective Jan. 1, 2021.

(Adds R.S. 23:1605)

Summary of Amendments Adopted by House

The House Floor Amendments to the engrossed bill:

1. Correct the name of the National Directory of New Hires.
2. Clarify that the definition "new hire records" means the directory of newly hired and re-hired employees reported under state and federal law and managed by the Office of Child Support Enforcement, not LWC.
3. Authorize LWC to use other commercially available database solutions to check new hire records.
4. Mandate LWC to check the Integrity Data Hub.
5. Make technical changes.

Summary of Amendments Adopted by Senate

Committee Amendments Proposed by Senate Committee on Commerce, Consumer Protection, and International Affairs to the reengrossed bill

1. Makes technical corrections.
2. Adds option for LWC to check unemployment claims on the Integrity Data Hub or another commercial database.
3. Provides that LWC include in its report to the legislature the rate of consistency in performing weekly checks against commercial database.