2022 Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 622

BY REPRESENTATIVE BEAULLIEU

UNEMPLOYMENT COMP: Provides relative to the unemployment insurance integrity
program

1   AN ACT

2   To amend and reenact R.S. 23:1605(D) through (G) and to enact R.S. 23:1605 (C)(5), (H),

3   and (I), relative to unemployment compensation; to require the Louisiana Workforce

4   Commission to conduct certain checks with respect to unemployment compensation;

5   to require the recovery of overpayments; and to provide for related matters.

6   Be it enacted by the Legislature of Louisiana:

7   Section 1. R.S. 23:1605(D) through (G) are hereby amended and reenacted and R.S.

8   23:1605(C)(5), (H), and (I) are hereby enacted to read as follows:

9   §1605. Unemployment insurance integrity program

10   *   *   *

11   C. To ensure the integrity of the unemployment insurance program and to

12   verify eligibility and to prevent fraudulent filing and payment of claims, the

13   department is required to do all of the following:

14   *   *   *

15   (5) The department, on a weekly basis, shall check the unemployment

16   insurance rolls against the Louisiana Department of Health State Registrar and Vital

17   Records' list of death records.

18   D. To ensure the integrity of the unemployment insurance program and to

19   prevent the continuous payment of suspicious or potentially improper claims, the

1   department shall perform a review and verify the eligibility of the following claims:

2   (1) Multiple or duplicative claims that are filed online originating from the

3   same internet protocol address.

4   (2) Claims that are filed online from a foreign internet protocol address.

5   (3) Multiple or duplicative claims that are filed and associated with the same

6   mailing address.

7   (4) Multiple or duplicative claims that are filed and associated with the same

8   bank account.

9   D.E. When the department receives information concerning an individual

10   who is participating in the unemployment compensation insurance program that

11   indicates a change in circumstances that may affect his eligibility, the department

12   shall review the individual's case and make a final determination of his eligibility in

13   accordance with the provisions of R.S. 23:1600 and 1601.

14   E.F. Pursuant to the performance of all cross-match activities required by

15   this Section, the Louisiana Workforce Commission shall provide to the legislature

16   a report on or before June thirtieth annually. The report shall include all of the

17   following:

18   (1) The department's rate of consistency in performing the weekly checks

19   against the Integrity Data Hub or another commercially available database and the

20   National Directory of New Hires.

21   (2) The type and amount of improper payments detected retroactively.

22   (3) The type and amount of improper payments prevented.

23   (4) The dollar amount the state has saved in preventing improper payments

24   and, if any, in recouping improper payments.

25   G.(1) The department shall adopt and implement an internal administrative

26   policy to recover improper overpayments to the fullest extent possible by state and

27   federal law.

28   (2)   The department shall, without exception, recover improper

29   overpayments, unless doing so would violate existing state or federal law.

1   F. H. The department shall have the authority to execute a memorandum of

2   understanding with any state department, agency, or division for data that is

3   necessary to carry out the purposes of this Section.

4   G. I. The Louisiana Workforce Commission shall promulgate all rules and

5   regulations necessary for the purposes of carrying out the provisions of this Section.

DIGEST

The digest printed below was prepared by House Legislative Services. It constitutes no part of the legislative instrument. The keyword, one-liner, abstract, and digest do not constitute part of the law or proof or indicia of legislative intent. [R.S. 1:13(B) and 24:177(E)]

HB 622 Original   2022 Regular Session   Beaullieu

Abstract: Provides relative to the unemployment compensation integrity program.

Present law provides that to ensure the integrity of the unemployment insurance program and to verify eligibility and to prevent fraudulent filing and payment of claims, the department (the Louisiana Workforce Commission (LWC) is required to do all of the following:

(1)   Use commercially available database solutions to check new hire records against the state's unemployment insurance rolls on a weekly basis.

(2)   Check new hire records against the National Directory of New Hires.

(3)   Check the Integrity Data Hub or another commercially available database.

(4)   Check the unemployment insurance rolls against the La. Dept. of Public Safety and Corrections' list of incarcerated individuals.

Proposed law retains present law and adds that the department, on a weekly basis, shall check the unemployment insurance rolls against the La. Dept. of Health State Registrar and Vital Records' list of death records.

Proposed law provides that to ensure the integrity of the unemployment insurance program and to prevent the continuous payment of suspicious or potentially improper claims, the LWC shall perform a review and verify the eligibility of the following claims:

(1)   Multiple or duplicative claims that are filed online originating from the same I.P. address.

(2)   Claims that are filed online from a foreign I.P. address.

(3)   Multiple or duplicative claims that are filed and associated with the same mailing address.

(4)   Multiple or duplicative claims that are filed and associated with the same bank account.

Proposed law provides that the department shall adopt and implement an internal administrative policy to recover improper overpayments to the fullest extent possible by state and federal law.

Proposed law further provides that the department shall, without exception, recover improper overpayments, unless doing so would violate existing state or federal law.

(Amends R.S. 23:1605(D)-(G); Adds R.S. 23:1605(C)(5), (H), and(I))