

[First Reprint]

SENATE, No. 2396

STATE OF NEW JERSEY
220th LEGISLATURE

INTRODUCED MARCH 24, 2022

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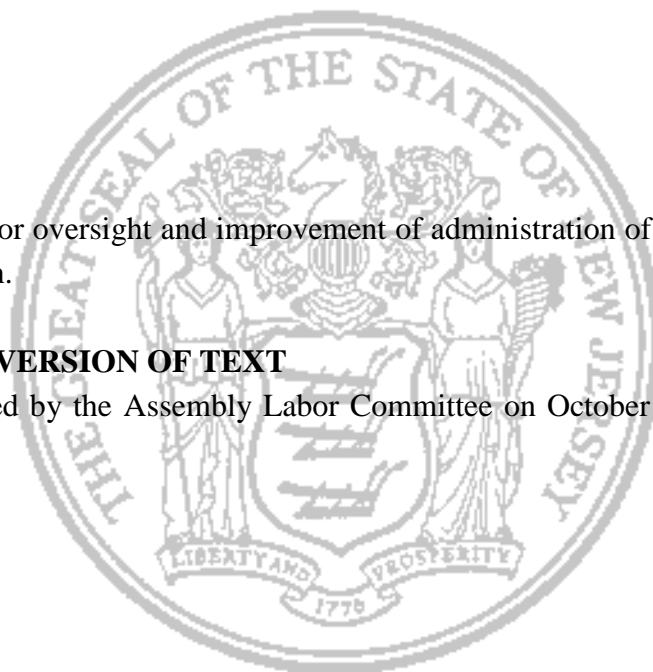
Senator O'Scanlon

SYNOPSIS

Provides for oversight and improvement of administration of unemployment compensation.

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

As reported by the Assembly Labor Committee on October 17, 2022, with amendments.



(Sponsorship Updated As Of: 12/19/2022)

1 AN ACT concerning ¹**the**¹ unemployment compensation and
 2 supplementing chapter 21 of Title 43 of the Revised Statutes.

3
 4 **BE IT ENACTED** *by the Senate and General Assembly of the State*
 5 *of New Jersey:*

6
 7 1. The commissioner shall, not later than ¹**November 30 of**
 8 **2022**¹ November 30, 2023¹ and each subsequent year, issue,
 9 provide to the Legislature, and make available to the public in a
 10 prominent location on the department's website, a report regarding
 11 the department's performance in providing timely and accurate
 12 processing of, and adjudicating appeals concerning, unemployment
 13 compensation benefit claims. The report shall include:

14 a. ¹**Data** regarding the State's performance levels during the
 15 last four completed calendar quarters on all of the U.S. Department
 16 of Labor's core measures regarding the timeliness and quality of
 17 first payments of benefits, benefit determinations, and lower and
 18 higher authority appeals;

19 b. Data regarding whether, for each core measure, the State has
 20 attained acceptable levels of performance under the U.S.
 21 Department of Labor standards, and how the State's level of
 22 performance compares to the national average;

23 c.¹ (1) The number of personnel in the department employed in
 24 the administration of the unemployment insurance system and the
 25 budgeted cost of salaries and benefits for those personnel:

26 (2) The number of personnel who are processing unemployment
 27 benefit claims, the number engaged in other functions of the
 28 system, and the budgeted cost of salaries and benefits for those
 29 personnel;

30 (3) What percentage of total division administrative costs is
 31 comprised of those categories of personnel costs;

32 ¹**d.**¹ b.¹ Information regarding the appropriations for the
 33 system during the fiscal year in which the report is made and the
 34 preceding fiscal year, including:

35 (1) For both fiscal years, the amount appropriated in federal
 36 funds, the budget authority, the budget reserve, the amount
 37 expended, and the amount of each year's appropriation not
 38 expended;

39 (2) The anticipated expenditures for the remainder of the fiscal
 40 year in which the report is made; and

41 (3) The total unexpended moneys remaining from any previous
 42 appropriation;

43 ¹**e.**¹ and

44 c.¹ If an acceptable level of performance was not attained

EXPLANATION – Matter enclosed in bold-faced brackets **thus** in the above bill is
 not enacted and is intended to be omitted in the law.

Matter underlined thus is new matter.

Matter enclosed in superscript numerals has been adopted as follows:

¹Assembly ALA committee amendments adopted October 17, 2022.

1 during the year, the level of performance was substantially below
2 the national average, or it is determined that there are other
3 significant problems in the administration of the system, the report
4 shall provide an evaluation of the causes of the deficiencies and a
5 plan to correct them. That plan shall include:

6 (1) Any increase in personnel needed to process claims and
7 appeals of claims and make benefit payments expeditiously and
8 accurately;

9 (2) Any measures needed to enforce notification and reporting
10 requirements;

11 (3) Any measures needed to inform employers and employees of
12 their responsibilities to facilitate the timely provision of benefits;

13 (4) Any improvements needed in data processing, telephone and
14 other communications technology, staff training, and other
15 administrative services and equipment;

16 (5) Any measures needed to improve service to claimants and
17 beneficiaries, including implementing easy-to-use, user-friendly
18 application processes, facilitating rapid response times to inquiries
19 and applications, and providing easy access to personal assistance
20 as needed; and

21 (6) Any other measures appropriate for a full modernization of
22 the administration of all aspects of the unemployment insurance
23 system.

24 The plan shall include all of the provisions of any applicable
25 corrective action plan which is included in an Unemployment
26 Insurance State Quality Service Plan approved by the U.S.
27 Department of Labor. The plan shall, as needed, also provide for
28 measures, in addition to those provided in those corrective action
29 plans, to attain more rapid improvements in performance and
30 provide for greater commitments of resources to attain its goals than
31 the federal plan, including expenditures of funds held in reserve and
32 other unexpended funds, and funding from non-federal sources,
33 including the Unemployment Compensation Auxiliary Fund. The
34 commissioner shall include any proposals of the report for greater
35 commitments of resources in the commissioner's budget requests
36 for the fiscal year following the issuing of the report.

37
38 2. This act shall take effect immediately.