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OHIO LEGISLATIVE SERVICE COMMISSION

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Synopsis of Senate Committee Amendments

(This synopsis does not address amendments that may have been adopted on the Senate Floor.)

H.B. 614 of the 133rd General Assembly

Senate Government Oversight and Reform Committee

Kelly Bomba, Attorney

Unemployment Compensation Modernization and Improvement Council

Prohibits the Unemployment Compensation Modernization and Improvement Council created in the bill from examining changes that would either increase or reduce benefits paid from the Unemployment Compensation Fund.

Eliminates the House-passed version's requirements that Council appointees who are representatives of employers and employees must have certain training and experience and must be appointed with the Senate's advice and consent.

Eliminates the House-passed version's requirement that Council members must be reimbursed for their actual and necessary expenses while engaged in the performance of their duties.

Requires the chairpersons of the standing committees of the Senate and the House of Representatives to which legislation pertaining to the Unemployment Compensation Law is customarily referred to jointly call the first meeting of the Council.

Eliminates the House-passed version's requirement that the Council must meet at least every two weeks.

Eliminates the House-passed version's requirements that the Director of Job and Family Services must furnish the Council with office and meeting space as requested by the Council and pay the Council's operating expenses from the Unemployment Compensation Special Administrative Fund.

Prohibits the Council from having access to sensitive or personally identifying information.

Requires the Council to issue the initial report required under the bill not later than six months after the Council's initial meeting, rather than not later than six months after the bill's effective date as in the House-passed version.

Makes changes to what the Council's report must include and when the report must be reviewed and updated by the Council.

Removes the House-passed version's provision that allows the Council to conduct additional research of its own, make and publish additional reports, and recommend needed changes to the Law.

Makes changes to the House-passed version's provisions regarding notification to the Council of security breaches in the records maintained under the Law and of substantial disruptions in the claims process.

Strategic staffing plan

Specifies that the increase or decrease must be substantial for the bill's requirement that the Director must implement a written staffing plan whenever there is an increase or decrease in inquiries or in the number of claims for unemployment benefits to apply.

Requires the Director to develop the initial staffing plan not later than six months after the first meeting of the Council, rather than not later than six months after the bill's effective date as in the House-passed version.

Contact list

Eliminates the House-passed version's requirements that certain information must be included in the consolidated list of contacts related to inquiries about unemployment benefits required to be maintained by the Director under the bill.

Eliminates the House-passed version's provision that says the bill does not prohibit the Director from maintaining contact information in more than one place.

Constituent referral system

Eliminates the House-passed version's requirement that the Director must create a constituent referral system.

Auditor of State report

Requires the Auditor of State to publish and submit the report regarding the unemployment benefit claims process required by the bill not later than nine months after the bill's effective date, rather than not later than six months after the bill's effective date under the House-passed version.

Adds the following to the bill:

Local CARES Act revenue distribution

Appropriates \$650 million of funding allocated to the state from the federal "Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act" (CARES Act) to counties, municipalities, and townships to fund COVID-19 pandemic-related expenses.

Distributes funds based on population (excluding local governments that receive direct federal funding under the CARES Act).

Requires subdivisions to spend the funds only on pandemic-related expenses as required under the CARES Act.

Changes procedures and defers deadlines prescribed by H.B. 481 of the 133rd General Assembly for the redistribution of unspent CARES Act funds to local subdivisions and, later, the return of unspent funds to the state.

Workforce-education partnership programs

Permits a college or university and employers to establish a workforce-education partnership program to assist students to graduate from college with no student debt.

Requires the Chancellor of Higher Education to create a template for workforce-education partnership programs.

Concealed handgun licenses

From the bill's effective date until June 30, 2021, allows an Ohio resident applying for a concealed handgun license to file the application with any county sheriff, rather than only with the sheriff of the county of residence or an adjacent county.

Further extends the concealed handgun license expiration date extended in H.B. 197 of the 133rd General Assembly so that any license that would have expired beginning on March 9, 2020, until June 30, 2021, is extended until June 30, 2021, or 90 days after the license would have expired, whichever is later.

Allows a sheriff to designate up to eight additional hours during which county residents may file applications for concealed handgun licenses with the sheriff.

Clarifies that the 30-day grace period that applies to a concealed handgun license after expiration under continuing law also applies to an expiration that is extended under the bill.

Appropriations and funding

Makes a supplemental appropriation of \$4 million in FY 2021 for Facilities Establishment Fund (Fund 7037) line item 195615, Facilities Establishment.

Amends H.B. 481 of the 133rd General Assembly to do all of the following:

- Increase capital appropriations under Parks and Recreation Improvement Fund (Fund 7035) capital appropriation item C725E2, Local Parks, Recreation, and Conservation Projects by \$550,000 to a total of \$20.7 million;
- Redirect a \$400,000 community project earmark under the Higher Education Improvement Fund (Fund 7034) capital appropriation item C38443, Central Ohio Job Skills and Workforce Developmental Center to Parks and Recreation Improvement Fund (Fund 7035) capital appropriation item C725E2, Local Parks, Recreation, and Conservation Projects; and
- Earmark \$150,00 to support Kamp Dovetail.

Authorizes the Treasurer of State to issue original obligations of not more than \$550,000, if needed, to provide sufficient moneys to the credit of Fund 7035 to support the costs of capital facilities for parks and recreation purposes.

Authorization to convey land

Authorizes the conveyance of two tracts of state-owned land, currently under the Department of Rehabilitation and Correction, in Madison and Warren counties.

Emergency clause

Declares an emergency, causing the bill to become effective immediately and exempting it from the referendum.