



House of Representatives

General Assembly

File No. 62

February Session, 2024

House Bill No. 5270

House of Representatives, March 20, 2024

The Committee on Labor and Public Employees reported through REP. SANCHEZ, E. of the 24th Dist., Chairperson of the Committee on the part of the House, that the bill ought to pass.

AN ACT INCREASING THE THRESHOLD AMOUNT FOR FELONY UNEMPLOYMENT COMPENSATION FRAUD.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Assembly convened:

1 Section 1. Subsection (f) of section 31-273 of the general statutes is
2 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October*
3 *1, 2024*):

4 (f) Any person who knowingly makes a false statement or
5 representation or fails to disclose a material fact in order to obtain,
6 increase, prevent or decrease any benefit, contribution or other payment
7 under this chapter, or under any similar law of another state or of the
8 United States in regard to which this state acted as agent pursuant to an
9 agreement authorized by section 31-225, whether to be made to or by
10 [himself or herself] such person or any other person, and who receives
11 any such benefit, pays any such contribution or alters any such payment
12 to [his or her] such person's advantage by such fraudulent means (1)
13 shall be guilty of a class A misdemeanor if such benefit, contribution or

14 payment amounts to [five hundred] two thousand dollars or less, or (2)
15 shall be guilty of a class D felony if such benefit, contribution or
16 payment amounts to more than [five hundred] two thousand dollars.
17 Notwithstanding the provisions of section 54-193, no person shall be
18 prosecuted for a violation of the provisions of this subsection committed
19 on or after October 1, 1977, except within five years next after such
20 violation has been committed.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	October 1, 2024	31-273(f)

LAB *Joint Favorable*

The following Fiscal Impact Statement and Bill Analysis are prepared for the benefit of the members of the General Assembly, solely for purposes of information, summarization and explanation and do not represent the intent of the General Assembly or either chamber thereof for any purpose. In general, fiscal impacts are based upon a variety of informational sources, including the analyst's professional knowledge. Whenever applicable, agency data is consulted as part of the analysis, however final products do not necessarily reflect an assessment from any specific department.

OFA Fiscal Note**State Impact:** None**Municipal Impact:** None**Explanation**

The bill, which increases the threshold at which unemployment compensation fraud becomes a felony, does not result in any fiscal impact to the state or municipalities. This modification is not expected to substantially increase workloads as these cases rarely occur. Over the past two decades, no fines for this offense have been collected.

The Out Years**State Impact:** None**Municipal Impact:** None

OLR Bill Analysis

HB 5270

AN ACT INCREASING THE THRESHOLD AMOUNT FOR FELONY UNEMPLOYMENT COMPENSATION FRAUD.

SUMMARY

This bill increases, from \$500 to \$2,000, the financial threshold that determines whether someone’s unemployment compensation fraud is a misdemeanor or a felony.

By law, unemployment compensation fraud is knowingly making a false statement or representation or failing to disclose a material fact to obtain, increase, prevent, or decrease an unemployment benefit, contribution, or other payment. Under current law, a fraudulent payment, benefit, or contribution is a (1) class A misdemeanor if it amounts to \$500 or less or (2) class D felony if it amounts to more than \$500. The bill increases these thresholds to \$2,000 or less for a class A misdemeanor and more than \$2,000 for a class D felony.

A class A misdemeanor is punishable by up to 364 days in prison, a fine of up to \$2,000, or both. A class D felony is punishable by up to five years in prison, a fine of up to \$5,000, or both.

EFFECTIVE DATE: October 1, 2024

COMMITTEE ACTION

Labor and Public Employees Committee

Joint Favorable

Yea 8 Nay 4 (03/07/2024)