



AN ACT PROVIDING THE UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE PROGRAM INTEGRITY ACT; PROVIDING DEFINITIONS; REQUIRING THE DEPARTMENT OF LABOR AND INDUSTRY TO VERIFY THE INTEGRITY OF THE UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE ROLLS; REQUIRING REPORTING TO THE LEGISLATURE; AND PROVIDING AN IMMEDIATE EFFECTIVE DATE.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF MONTANA:

Section 1. Short title. [Sections 1 through 4] may be cited as the "Unemployment Insurance Program Integrity Act".

Section 2. Purpose. The purpose of [sections 1 through 4] is to enhance program integrity for the state's unemployment insurance program by requiring the state to utilize a government or commercially available database to verify the integrity of the state's unemployment insurance rolls, check new hire records against unemployment insurance rolls on a weekly basis, and check state, county, and local prison and jail records.

Section 3. Definitions. For the purposes of [sections 1 through 4], the following definitions apply:

- (1) "Department of corrections" means the Montana department of corrections as provided in 2-15-2301.
- (2) "New hire records" means the directory of newly hired and rehired employees reported under state and federal law and managed by the department of labor.
- (3) "Unemployment insurance rolls" means jobless workers receiving unemployment insurance benefits.

Section 4. Department duties -- integrity data hub -- review of information -- reporting to legislature. The department of labor shall:

- (1) engage with and utilize a commercially available database to verify the integrity of the state's unemployment insurance rolls to verify the integrity of the state's unemployment insurance rolls;
- (2) on a weekly basis, check the unemployment insurance rolls against the department of corrections list of incarcerated individuals to verify eligibility and ensure program integrity;
- (3) on a weekly basis, check the unemployment insurance rolls against the national directory of new hires to verify eligibility;
- (4) have the authority to execute a memorandum of understanding with any department, agency, or division for information required to be shared between agencies as outlined in [sections 1 through 4];
- (5) if it receives information concerning an individual receiving unemployment insurance benefits that indicates a change in circumstances that may affect eligibility, review the individual's case; and
- (6) report to the economic affairs interim committee in accordance with 5-11-210 relating to the administration of [sections 1 through 4].

Section 5. Codification instruction. [Sections 1 through 4] are intended to be codified as an integral part of Title 39, chapter 51, and the provisions of Title 39, chapter 51, apply to [sections 1 through 4].

Section 6. Effective date. [This act] is effective on passage and approval.

- END -

I hereby certify that the within bill,
SB 234, originated in the Senate.

Secretary of the Senate

President of the Senate

Signed this _____ day
of _____, 2021.

Speaker of the House

Signed this _____ day
of _____, 2021.

SENATE BILL NO. 234

INTRODUCED BY G. VANCE

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