

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE BILL

No. 535 Session of 2021

INTRODUCED BY GLEIM, MIZGORSKI, RYAN, STAATS, DeLUCA,
HOHENSTEIN, HILL-EVANS, JONES, JAMES, ZIMMERMAN, WEBSTER,
MOUL, B. MILLER, GILLEN AND BENHAM, FEBRUARY 16, 2021

REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON LABOR AND INDUSTRY, FEBRUARY 16, 2021

AN ACT

1 Amending the act of December 5, 1936 (2nd Sp.Sess., 1937
2 P.L.2897, No.1), entitled "An act establishing a system of
3 unemployment compensation to be administered by the
4 Department of Labor and Industry and its existing and newly
5 created agencies with personnel (with certain exceptions)
6 selected on a civil service basis; requiring employers to
7 keep records and make reports, and certain employers to pay
8 contributions based on payrolls to provide moneys for the
9 payment of compensation to certain unemployed persons;
10 providing procedure and administrative details for the
11 determination, payment and collection of such contributions
12 and the payment of such compensation; providing for
13 cooperation with the Federal Government and its agencies;
14 creating certain special funds in the custody of the State
15 Treasurer; and prescribing penalties," in administration of
16 act, providing for emergency unemployment compensation
17 assistance.

18 The General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania
19 hereby enacts as follows:

20 Section 1. The act of December 5, 1936 (2nd Sp.Sess., 1937
21 P.L.2897, No.1), known as the Unemployment Compensation Law, is
22 amended by adding a section to read:

23 Section 215. Emergency Unemployment Compensation
24 Assistance.--(a) The Governor shall hire additional employes or
25 reassign employes from other Commonwealth departments, boards or

1 commissions, including full-time and part-time furloughed
2 employees, in accordance with sections 501 and 502 of the act of
3 April 9, 1929 (P.L.177, No.175), known as "The Administrative
4 Code of 1929," for the Office of Unemployment Compensation and
5 unemployment compensation service centers to ensure that
6 eligible claimants are able to receive the benefits provided
7 under this act. The Department of Labor and Industry shall hire
8 additional employees or reassign Commonwealth employees under this
9 subsection commensurate with need, if:

10 (1) The Commonwealth enters an extended benefit period as
11 defined by section 401-A of this act.

12 (2) A state of disaster emergency is declared or a
13 declaration is renewed under 35 Pa.C.S. § 7301(c) (relating to
14 general authority of Governor).

15 (b) In determining whether the Department of Labor and
16 Industry needs to hire additional employees or reassign
17 Commonwealth employees, the Governor, in conjunction with the
18 Secretary of Labor and Industry, shall consult with all of the
19 following:

20 (1) The chair and minority chair of the Labor and Industry
21 Committee of the Senate.

22 (2) The chair and minority chair of the Labor and Industry
23 Committee of the House of Representatives.

24 (c) The Department of Labor and Industry shall hire
25 additional employees or reassign Commonwealth employees under
26 subsection (a) in a manner that preserves the health and safety
27 of the employees at the Office of Unemployment Compensation and
28 unemployment compensation service centers.

29 Section 2. This act shall take effect immediately.