



**Public Hearing Testimony of
Scott D. Jackson, Commissioner
Department of Labor
Labor and Public Employees Committee
March 3, 2016**

Good Afternoon Senator Gomes, Representative Tercyak, Senator Hwang, Representative Rutigliano and members of the Labor and Public Employees Committee. Thank you for the opportunity to provide you with testimony regarding **Senate Bill No. 220, AAC Unemployment Compensation Appeals and Hearings and Minor and Technical Revisions to the General Statutes Relating to the Labor Department**. My name is Scott Jackson and I am the Commissioner of the Department of Labor.

I am here to speak in favor of this bill proposed by the Department of Labor (DOL). The Department seeks to bring up to date certain provisions in the unemployment compensation statutes that will ready DOL for the eventual modernization of its information technology system. With our modernization efforts, DOL will be able to handle unemployment compensation hearings electronically. Although these changes will not affect DOL's current process of adjudicating each matter via hearings, future advanced technology and the ability of the parties to present their entire case in writing, electronically or otherwise, will obviate the need for a hearing for each issue, while ensuring full due process to the parties. If hearings are needed or requested by a claimant or employer, DOL will still be able to provide a telephonic hearing as it does now.

The proposed bill also amends the current law allowing an individual receiving unemployment benefits to select a tax withholding status only once per year. This proposed bill will permit that individual to change his or her tax withholding status more than once per year.

Finally, the proposed bill permits the Employment Security Appeals Division to prescribe the manner for filing documents for appeal. This change is necessary to acknowledge the issues surrounding electronic filing, including when an electronic appeal will be deemed to have been filed.

The proposed changes in this bill are technical and many are necessary to position DOL for the use of technology at the administrator and appeals division levels when our information technology system has been modernized.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide this testimony. I am available to answer any questions you may have.