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## **OLR Bill Analysis**

**sSB 904 (File 401, as amended by Senate "A")\***

### ***AN ACT CONCERNING THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF THE LABOR DEPARTMENT'S EMPLOYMENT SECURITY DIVISION.***

#### **SUMMARY**

This bill makes the executive director of the Department of Labor's Employment Security Division a member of the state employee classified service (i.e., subject to various civil service procedures and requirements) and requires the executive director to devote full-time to the offices' duties. By law, the Employment Security Division is responsible for various matters related to the state's unemployment compensation system.

By law, unchanged by the bill, the labor commissioner may (1) appoint the executive director, subject to the governor's approval; (2) set the position's pay, subject to approval from the governor and the Office of Policy and Management secretary; and (3) prescribe the position's duties. (To the extent these powers may conflict with the civil service law's procedures and requirements for employees in the classified service, it is unclear which law would prevail.)

The bill also increases, from \$150 to \$325, the compensation that State Board of Mediation and Arbitration (i.e., the board) members receive for each extra day of presiding over a proceeding that lasts for more than one day. Under current law, they receive \$325 for the proceeding's first day and \$150 for each additional day. By law, no proceeding may last beyond two days without the labor commissioner's prior approval for each additional day.

In addition, the bill increases, from \$150 to \$200, the compensation the board members receive upon concluding an executive panel session. In general, an executive panel session is a meeting of the arbitrators who presided over a proceeding as a three-member panel.

The meeting is held to decide a case after its last hearing or briefing.

\*Senate Amendment "A" adds the provisions that increase the board members' compensation.

EFFECTIVE DATE: Upon passage, except the board's compensation provisions are effective July 1, 2021.

**COMMITTEE ACTION**

Labor and Public Employees Committee

Joint Favorable

Yea 12 Nay 1 (03/23/2021)