

OFFICE OF FISCAL ANALYSIS

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HB-6344

AN ACT ESTABLISHING THE OFFICE OF THE UNEMPLOYED WORKERS' ADVOCATE.

As Amended by House "A" (LCO 9145)

House Calendar No.: 320

OFA Fiscal Note

State Impact:

| Agency Affected | Fund-Effect | FY 22 \$ | FY 23 \$ |
|---|------------------------|------------------|------------------|
| Labor Dept. | GF - Potential Cost | Up to 430,981 | Up to 579,705 |
| State Comptroller - Fringe Benefits ¹ | GF - Potential Cost | Up to 167,877 | Up to 239,418 |

Note: GF=General Fund

Municipal Impact: None

Explanation

The bill, which requires the labor commissioner to establish the Office of the Unemployed Workers' Advocate, results in a potential cost of up to \$598,858 in FY 22 and up to \$819,123 in FY 23.

The bill requires the designation of an "unemployed workers' advocate" to manage the office's daily activities and duties, as well as appoint and employ the assistants, employees, and personnel needed to effectively and efficiently administer the office's activities.

The cost of the office and personnel are dependent on the way the requirements of the bill are satisfied. To the extent the agency hires all

¹The fringe benefit costs for most state employees are budgeted centrally in accounts administered by the Comptroller. The estimated active employee fringe benefit cost associated with most personnel changes is 41.3% of payroll in FY 22 and FY 23.

new, additional personnel to establish the office, there is a cost of up to \$598,858 in FY 22 and up to \$819,123 in FY 23 associated with salary and fringe benefit costs for up to seven positions (including the advocate position itself), as well as one-time information technology and office set-up costs estimated at up to \$24,500 in FY 22 only. However, to the extent that the agency is able to utilize existing personnel and equipment for some or all of the functions, the cost could be less.

House "A" pushes back the date by which the Labor Commissioner must designate an Unemployed Workers' Advocate, which reduces the potential cost by up to \$191,453 in FY 22 only (\$135,494 in the Labor Department and \$55,959 in the State Comptroller- Fringe Benefits account).

The Out Years

The annualized ongoing fiscal impact identified above would continue into the future subject to inflation.