



General Assembly

January Session, 2021

**Committee Bill No. 5377**

LCO No. 5407



Referred to Committee on LABOR AND PUBLIC EMPLOYEES

Introduced by:  
(LAB)

**AN ACT CONCERNING THE REMOVAL OF COVID-19 RELATED LAYOFFS FROM THE UNEMPLOYMENT COMPENSATION EXPERIENCE ACCOUNT.**

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Assembly convened:

1 Section 1. Subsection (a) of section 31-225a of the general statutes is  
2 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October*  
3 *1, 2021*):

4 (a) As used in this chapter: [, "qualified employer"]

5 (1) "Qualified employer" means each employer subject to this chapter  
6 whose experience record has been chargeable with benefits for at least  
7 one full experience year, with the exception of employers subject to a  
8 flat entry rate of contributions as provided under subsection (d) of this  
9 section, employers subject to the maximum contribution rate under  
10 subsection (c) of section 31-273, and reimbursing employers;  
11 ["contributing employer"]

12 (2) "Contributing employer" means an employer who is assigned a  
13 percentage rate of contribution under the provisions of this section;  
14 ["reimbursing employer"]

15     (3) "Reimbursing employer" means an employer liable for payments  
16 in lieu of contributions as provided under section 31-225; ["benefit  
17 charges"]

18     (4) "Benefit charges" means the amount of benefit payments charged  
19 to an employer's experience account under this section; ["computation  
20 date"]

21     (5) "Computation date" means June thirtieth of the year preceding the  
22 tax year for which the contribution rates are computed; ["tax year"]

23     (6) "Tax year" means the calendar year immediately following the  
24 computation date; ["experience year"]

25     (7) "Experience year" means the twelve consecutive months ending  
26 on June thirtieth; [and "experience period"]

27     (8) "Experience period" means the three consecutive experience years  
28 ending on the computation date, except that (A) if the employer's  
29 account has been chargeable with benefits for less than three years, the  
30 experience period shall consist of the greater of one or two consecutive  
31 experience years ending on the computation date, and (B) to the extent  
32 allowed by federal law and as necessary to respond to the spread of  
33 COVID-19, for any taxable year commencing on or after January 1, 2022,  
34 the experience period shall be calculated without regard to benefit  
35 charges and taxable wages for the experience years ending June 30, 2020,  
36 and June 30, 2021, when applicable; and

37     (9) "COVID-19" means the respiratory disease designated by the  
38 World Health Organization on February 11, 2020, as coronavirus 2019,  
39 and any related mutation thereof recognized by the World Health  
40 Organization as a communicable respiratory disease.

41     Sec. 2. Subsection (d) of section 31-225a of the general statutes is  
42 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October*  
43 *1, 2021*):

44 (d) The standard rate of contributions shall be five and four-tenths  
 45 per cent. Each employer who has not been chargeable with benefits, for  
 46 a sufficient period of time to have his or her rate computed under this  
 47 section shall pay contributions at a rate that is the higher of (1) one per  
 48 cent, or (2) the state's five-year benefit cost rate. For purposes of this  
 49 subsection, the state's five-year benefit cost rate shall be computed  
 50 annually on or before June thirtieth and shall be derived by dividing the  
 51 total dollar amount of benefits paid to claimants under this chapter  
 52 during the five consecutive calendar years immediately preceding the  
 53 computation date by the five-year payroll during the same period,  
 54 except that, to the extent allowed by federal law and as necessary to  
 55 respond to the spread of COVID-19, for any taxable year commencing  
 56 on or after January 1, 2022, the state's five-year benefit cost rate shall be  
 57 calculated without regard to benefit payments and taxable wages for  
 58 calendar years 2020 and 2021, when applicable. If the resulting quotient  
 59 is not an exact multiple of one-tenth of one per cent, the five-year benefit  
 60 cost rate shall be the next higher such multiple.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	October 1, 2021	31-225a(a)
Sec. 2	October 1, 2021	31-225a(d)

**Statement of Purpose:**

To remove COVID-19 related layoffs from the unemployment experience account.

*[Proposed deletions are enclosed in brackets. Proposed additions are indicated by underline, except that when the entire text of a bill or resolution or a section of a bill or resolution is new, it is not underlined.]*

Co-Sponsors: REP. CONLEY, 40th Dist.; SEN. OSTEN, 19th Dist.  
 REP. FISHBEIN, 90th Dist.; REP. RYAN, 139th Dist.

H.B. 5377