



**Substitute Senate Bill No. 904**

**Public Act No. 21-98**

**AN ACT CONCERNING THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF THE LABOR DEPARTMENT'S EMPLOYMENT SECURITY DIVISION AND INCREASING THE COMPENSATION FOR STATE BOARD OF MEDIATION AND ARBITRATION MEMBERS.**

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

Section 1. Section 31-237 of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from passage*):

(a) There shall continue to be in the Labor Department a division, to be known as the Employment Security Division, which shall be administered by a full-time, salaried, executive director, who shall be subject to the supervision and the direction of the administrator. Notwithstanding the provisions of subdivision (4) of section 5-198, such executive director shall be in the classified service and shall devote full-time to the duties of his or her office. The administrator is authorized to appoint, fix the compensation of and prescribe the duties of such executive director, provided such appointment shall be subject to the approval of the Governor and the rate of such compensation shall be subject to the approval of the Governor and the Secretary of the Office of Policy and Management. The Employment Security Division shall be responsible for matters relating to unemployment compensation and the Connecticut State Employment Service, and shall establish and

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maintain free public employment bureaus in such number and in such places as may be necessary for the proper administration of this chapter and for the purpose of performing such duties as are within the purview of the Act of Congress entitled "An Act to Provide for the Establishment of a National Employment System and for Cooperation with the States in the Promotion of Such System and for Other Purposes", approved June 6, 1933, as amended. The administrator may cooperate with or enter into agreements with the Federal Railroad Retirement Board with respect to the establishment, maintenance and use of free employment service facilities. Moneys received from the Federal Railroad Retirement Board as compensation for services or facilities supplied to said board shall be paid into the Employment Security Administration Fund.

(b) Notwithstanding the provisions of chapter 50, the Employment Security Division is authorized to purchase supply items and equipment obtainable directly from the General Services Administration of the United States government or any other federal agency, out of funds established under the provisions of subsection (a) or (d) of section 31-259 or out of funds established by or granted pursuant to federal authority to the Employment Security Division, if the administrator deems such purchases to be in the best interests of the state and said Employment Security Division.

Sec. 2. Section 31-98 of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2021*):

(a) The panel, or its single member if sitting in accordance with section 31-93, may, in its discretion and with the consent of the parties, issue an oral decision immediately upon conclusion of the proceedings. If the decision is to be in writing, it shall be signed, within fifteen days, by a majority of the members of the panel or by the single member so sitting, and the decision shall state such details as will clearly show the nature of the decision and the points disposed of by the panel. Where the decision is in writing, one copy thereof shall be filed by the panel in

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the office of the town clerk in the town where the controversy arose and one copy shall be given to each of the parties to the controversy. The panel or single member which has rendered an oral decision immediately upon conclusion of the proceedings shall submit a written copy of the decision to each party within fifteen days from the issuance of such oral decision. In all cases where a decision is rendered orally from the bench, the secretary shall cause such oral decision to be transcribed, approved by the panel or single member as applicable and filed with the records of the board proceedings.

(b) Upon the conclusion of the proceedings, each member of the panel shall receive three hundred twenty-five dollars and a panel member who prepares a written decision shall receive an additional five hundred dollars, or the single member, if sitting in accordance with section 31-93, shall receive three hundred twenty-five dollars, provided if the proceedings extend beyond one day, each member shall receive [one hundred fifty] three hundred twenty-five dollars for each additional day beyond the first day, and provided further no proceeding may be extended beyond two days without the prior approval of the Labor Commissioner for each such additional day.

(c) Upon the conclusion of an executive panel session, each member of such panel shall receive [one hundred fifty] two hundred dollars.

Approved June 28, 2021