



**PA 22-67**—sSB 210

*Labor and Public Employees Committee*

**AN ACT CONCERNING TECHNICAL AND OTHER CHANGES TO THE  
LABOR DEPARTMENT STATUTES**

**SUMMARY:** This act makes various unrelated changes in the Department of Labor (DOL) statutes. Among other things, it does the following:

1. reduces DOL’s reporting requirements on the Subsidized Training and Employment (STEP-UP) program and Unemployed Armed Forces Member Subsidized Training and Employment (Veterans STEP-UP) program (§§ 2 & 3),
2. makes various changes to the unemployment insurance reform measures passed in 2021 (§§ 5 & 6), and
3. repeals various obsolete statutes (§ 17).

The act removes a statutorily specified process for filing employee complaints about imminent danger of physical harm or violations of the state occupational safety and health act (OSHA) standards that apply to public-sector employers and employees (§ 14). (The federal OSHA Field Operations Manual also covers this process, and the state has adopted it for these purposes.) It also removes requirements for the labor commissioner to:

1. collect (a) population and employment data to make projections about the workforce and (b) data about present job requirements and potential needs of new industry (§ 1),
2. adopt regulations establishing procedures and requirements for granting exemptions to statutory meal period requirements (§ 4), and
3. adopt regulations on alternate use committees (i.e., committees within certain defense contractors that must prepare plans to reduce or eliminate the contractor’s dependence on defense contracts) (§ 13).

The act requires the labor commissioner to make the state’s unemployment laws, regulations, and other related materials available on DOL’s website, rather than in print, and removes the need for the administrative services commissioner’s approval (§ 12).

Lastly, the act makes various technical and conforming changes (§§ 7-11 & 15-16).

**EFFECTIVE DATE:** Upon passage

**§§ 2 & 3 — CHANGES TO STEP-UP AND VETERAN STEP-UP REPORTING  
REQUIREMENTS**

Prior law required DOL to issue reports about the STEP-UP and Veterans STEP-UP programs twice each year, by January 15 and July 15. The act limits the reporting requirements to fiscal years in which the programs are awarding grants,

## OLR PUBLIC ACT SUMMARY

with only one report due for the year by October 1. Correspondingly, it requires that the reports cover the previous fiscal year, rather than the previous six months. By law, the reports must (1) generally include information on the number of businesses and individuals participating in the programs and (2) be submitted to the Appropriations; Finance, Revenue and Bonding; and Labor and Public Employees committees.

### §§ 5 & 6 — CHANGES TO THE 2021 UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE REFORM ACT

#### *Experience Periods and Experience Rates (§ 5)*

PA 21-200 made numerous changes to the state's unemployment insurance laws, most of which take effect in 2024. The act makes several revisions to PA 21-200's provisions, as described below.

By law, an employer pays an unemployment tax experience rate based on the unemployment benefits collected by its former employee over a certain experience period (typically the previous three years). DOL annually determines each employer's experience rate by calculating a benefit ratio for the employer over the experience period. This is the ratio between the amount charged to the employer's experience account for benefits paid to former employees and the amount of the employer's taxable wages.

PA 21-200 established a one-year experience period for employers in calendar year 2026 and a two-year experience period for employers in calendar year 2027. The act removes these provisions, reverting to a three-year experience period for 2026 and 2027.

It also makes a related change to employers' experience rates for 2026 and 2027. PA 21-200 requires that each employer's charged rate for the 2024 and 2025 calendar years be divided by 1.471 and 1.269, respectively. The act further requires that the rates for the 2026 and 2027 calendar years be divided by 1.125 and 1.053, respectively.

Starting on January 1, 2024 (when PA 21-200's changes become effective), the act also requires that if an employer's benefit ratio quotient is not an exact multiple of 0.1%, the charged rate must be the next highest multiple. Existing law requires this same rounding-up for determining the rates before 2024.

In addition, under PA 21-200, if the average benefit ratio of all employers within an industry sector increases over the prior calendar year's average by at least 0.01, DOL must adjust the benefit ratio for each employer in that sector downward by 50% of the average increase for the sector. The act applies this requirement starting with calendar year 2024, rather than calendar year 2022 (as PA 21-200 required).

#### *Minimum Unemployment Benefit (§ 6)*

For benefit years starting after 2024, PA 21-200 generally requires that the minimum weekly unemployment benefit for all workers be adjusted for inflation

OLR PUBLIC ACT SUMMARY

(unless the federal government fully funds a supplement to the benefit). The act excludes from this requirement (1) the application of a construction worker’s base period wages in determining his or her benefits or (2) a reduction in the maximum benefit allowed by law.

The act also excludes the application of the constructions workers’ base period wages in determining their benefits, or a reduction in the maximum benefit allowed by law, from the law that makes the maximum benefit allowed to construction workers the same as the maximum benefit allowed to non-construction workers.

§ 17 — REPEALED STATUTES

The act repeals obsolete statutes on the subjects shown in the table below.

**Statutes Repealed by the Act**

<i>Repealed Statute</i>	<i>Subject</i>
CGS §§ 31-3y & 31-3z	DOL providing self-employment assistance
CGS § 31-9	DOL’s Department of Factory Inspection
CGS § 31-11//	DOL commissioner developing a universal intake form for American Job Center and Workforce Development Board facilities and annually reporting on the number of people using job center services to the Labor Committee
CGS § 31-40a	Requiring physicians and advanced practice registered nurses to report certain types of occupational poisonings to DOL
CGS § 31-40b	Requiring employers to provide lung function tests to certain employees
CGS § 31-40u	DOL commissioner adopting regulations for employees using video display terminals in state facilities