



Senate

General Assembly

File No. 82

February Session, 2026

Senate Bill No. 347

Senate, March 19, 2026

The Committee on Labor and Public Employees reported through SEN. KUSHNER of the 24th Dist., Chairperson of the Committee on the part of the Senate, that the bill ought to pass.

AN ACT INCREASING THE THRESHOLD AMOUNT FOR FELONY UNEMPLOYMENT COMPENSATION FRAUD.

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

1 Section 1. Subsection (f) of section 31-273 of the general statutes is
2 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October*
3 *1, 2026*):

4 (f) Any person who knowingly makes a false statement or
5 representation or fails to disclose a material fact in order to obtain,
6 increase, prevent or decrease any benefit, contribution or other payment
7 under this chapter, or under any similar law of another state or of the
8 United States in regard to which this state acted as agent pursuant to an
9 agreement authorized by section 31-225, whether to be made to or by
10 [himself or herself] such person or any other person, and who receives
11 any such benefit, pays any such contribution or alters any such payment
12 to [his or her] such person's advantage by such fraudulent means (1)
13 shall be guilty of a class A misdemeanor if such benefit, contribution or
14 payment amounts to [five hundred] two thousand dollars or less, or (2)

15 shall be guilty of a class D felony if such benefit, contribution or
16 payment amounts to more than [five hundred] two thousand dollars.
17 Notwithstanding the provisions of section 54-193, no person shall be
18 prosecuted for a violation of the provisions of this subsection committed
19 on or after October 1, 1977, except within five years next after such
20 violation has been committed.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	<i>October 1, 2026</i>	31-273(f)

LAB *Joint Favorable*

The following Fiscal Impact Statement and Bill Analysis are prepared for the benefit of the members of the General Assembly, solely for purposes of information, summarization and explanation and do not represent the intent of the General Assembly or either chamber thereof for any purpose. In general, fiscal impacts are based upon a variety of informational sources, including the analyst's professional knowledge. Whenever applicable, agency data is consulted as part of the analysis, however final products do not necessarily reflect an assessment from any specific department.

OFA Fiscal Note

State Impact:

Agency Affected	Fund-Effect	FY 27 \$	FY 28 \$
Resources of the General Fund	GF - Potential Revenue Gain	Minimal	Minimal

Note: GF=General Fund

Municipal Impact: None

Explanation

The bill, which increases the dollar threshold for felony unemployment compensation fraud from \$500 to \$2,000, results in a minimal potential revenue gain in FY 27 and FY 28. By reclassifying fraud overpayments in amounts greater than \$500 but less than \$2,000 from a class D felony to a class A misdemeanor, the bill decreases the maximum fine that may be imposed for these offenses, but if this change increases the frequency with which these fines are imposed, the revenue collected under this statute may be greater than previous years.¹ This bill is not anticipated to affect the number of persons incarcerated or the number of persons under supervision in the community.

Finally, this bill does not result in any fiscal impact to the Department of Labor (DOL) as the change in classification is not expected to affect workload for the agency. As background, DOL reported that 1,992 fraud overpayments were for amounts greater than \$500 but less than \$2,000 in 2025.

¹ In the past four years, the state has not collected any revenue from fines under CGS 31-273.

The Out Years

The annualized ongoing fiscal impact identified above would continue into the future subject to the number of fines imposed.

OLR Bill Analysis

SB 347

AN ACT INCREASING THE THRESHOLD AMOUNT FOR FELONY UNEMPLOYMENT COMPENSATION FRAUD.

SUMMARY

This bill increases, from \$500 to \$2,000, the financial threshold that determines whether someone’s unemployment compensation fraud is a misdemeanor or a felony.

By law, unemployment compensation fraud is knowingly making a false statement or representation or failing to disclose a material fact to obtain, increase, prevent, or decrease an unemployment benefit, contribution, or other payment. Under current law, a fraudulent payment, benefit, or contribution is a (1) class A misdemeanor if it amounts to \$500 or less or (2) class D felony if it amounts to more than \$500. The bill increases these thresholds to \$2,000 or less for a class A misdemeanor and more than \$2,000 for a class D felony.

A class A misdemeanor is punishable by up to 364 days in prison, a fine of up to \$2,000, or both. A class D felony is punishable by up to five years in prison, a fine of up to \$5,000, or both.

EFFECTIVE DATE: October 1, 2026

COMMITTEE ACTION

Labor and Public Employees Committee

Joint Favorable

Yea 9 Nay 4 (03/05/2026)