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# OHIO LEGISLATIVE SERVICE COMMISSION

Office of Research  
and Drafting

Legislative Budget  
Office

S.B. 116  
134<sup>th</sup> General Assembly

## Bill Analysis

**Version:** As Introduced

**Primary Sponsors:** Sens. Hackett and Reineke

Kelly Bomba, Attorney

### SUMMARY

- Requires applicants for state unemployment benefits and Pandemic Unemployment Assistance (PUA) to provide proof of identity to the administrator of a public employment office to receive unemployment benefits or PUA.
- Requires the Director to include notice of the bill's requirement in valid determinations for benefit rights.
- Applies the bill's identification requirement to claims for state unemployment benefits and PUA that are pending on or before the bill's effective date.
- Declares an emergency.

### DETAILED ANALYSIS

#### Required identification for unemployment benefits and PUA

The bill requires applicants for state unemployment benefits and Pandemic Unemployment Assistance (PUA) to present either of the following to the administrator of a public employment office maintained by the Director of Job and Family Services under continuing law to receive unemployment benefits or PUA:

- A driver's license;
- Two documents that contain the applicant's name and address and that the Registrar of Motor Vehicles would accept for the purpose of issuing a driver's license.

The administrator must notify the Director when the applicant has presented the documents. An applicant is not required to present the documents to an administrator more than once during a benefit year or the period for which the individual is eligible for PUA, as applicable.

The Director administers Ohio's unemployment compensation system and PUA program under continuing law. The PUA program is a federal program that provides benefits to individuals who are ineligible for state unemployment benefits (including self-employed workers and independent contractors) and who are unemployed for reasons specified in federal law related to the COVID-19 pandemic. A state must administer the PUA program in accordance with an agreement entered into pursuant to federal law with the Secretary of Labor.<sup>1</sup>

If the Director determines that an application for state unemployment benefits or PUA is valid, the Director is required to include notice of the bill's requirement in the determination sent to the applicant.<sup>2</sup> Under continuing law, the first step in applying for state unemployment benefits or PUA is to establish a valid application. An application is valid if the applicant meets initial eligibility requirements under continuing law. After a valid application is established, an applicant must file weekly claims to continue to receive state unemployment benefits or PUA, as applicable.<sup>3</sup>

The bill applies the identification requirement to claims for state unemployment benefits and PUA that are pending on or before the bill's effective date. Thus, if a claimant is receiving state unemployment benefits or PUA benefits on the bill's effective date, the claimant will stop receiving those benefits until the claimant presents the required identification. The Director must notify individuals named in a pending claim of the bill's requirement as soon as practicable after the bill's effective date.<sup>4</sup>

## **Effective date**

The bill declares an emergency by stating its provisions are necessary to protect the integrity of the unemployment compensation system and the identities of those who use it. If passed as an emergency law, the bill takes effect immediately following the Governor's signature.<sup>5</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> 15 United States Code (U.S.C.) 9021.

<sup>2</sup> R.C. 4141.28 and 4141.286.

<sup>3</sup> R.C. 4141.28 and R.C. 4141.01(R), not in the bill, and Ohio Department of Job and Family Services, *Expanded Eligibility: Frequently Asked Questions*, <https://unemploymenthelp.ohio.gov/expandedeligibilityFAQ/>.

<sup>4</sup> Section 3.

<sup>5</sup> Section 4.

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## HISTORY

Action	Date
Introduced	03-03-21

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