


Government of the District of Columbia
Office of the Chief Financial Officer



Jeffrey S. DeWitt
Chief Financial Officer

MEMORANDUM

TO: The Honorable Phil Mendelson
Chairman, Council of the District of Columbia

FROM: Jeffrey S. DeWitt
Chief Financial Officer 

DATE: November 19, 2020

SUBJECT: Fiscal Impact Statement – Unemployment Benefits Extension
Amendment Act of 2020

REFERENCE: Bill 23-985, Draft Committee Print as provided to the Office of Revenue
Analysis on November 17, 2020

Conclusion

Funds are sufficient in the fiscal year 2021 through fiscal year 2024 budget and financial plan to implement the bill.

Background

As a condition of certification under Section 3304(a)(11) of the Federal Unemployment Tax Act (FUTA) a state is required to have an Extended Benefits (EB) program in state law that is payable as provided by the Federal-State Extended Unemployment Compensation Act of 1970. Two federal laws¹ enacted since the pandemic, including the CARES Act, made changes to the EB program and provided supplemental appropriations for EB benefits. These included temporary Federal Pandemic Unemployment Compensation (FPUC) payments payable for weeks of EB and temporary full funding to states for EB. Such payments are available depending on the state's average unemployment rate.

The bill amends the District of Columbia Unemployment Compensation Act to update the dates that are used to determine if EB are payable to eligible unemployed workers so that some workers may receive up to an additional seven weeks of EB. These weeks of EB will be payable if federal EB

¹ Emergency Unemployment Insurance Stabilization and Access Act of 2020 (EUISAA), Public Law (Pub. L.) 116-127, and the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act of 2020 (CARES Act) (Pub. L. 116- 136).

The Honorable Phil Mendelson

FIS: Bill 23-985, "Unemployment Benefits Extension Amendment Act of 2020" Draft Committee Print as provided to the Office of Revenue Analysis on November 17, 2020

unemployment thresholds are reached in the District but only if 100 percent federal funding is available.

Financial Plan Impact

Funds are sufficient in the fiscal year 2021 through fiscal year 2024 budget and financial plan to implement the bill. The bill allows eligible unemployed District workers to continue receiving unemployment benefits to the extent eligible under the EB program, but only as long as such benefits remain fully federally funded. The bill is a permanent version of emergency legislation passed by the Council.² Current 100 percent federal funding of EB expires at the end of 2020, but the bill provides for an extension in the case additional federal legislation is enacted providing further funding.

² Unemployment Benefits Extension Emergency Amendment Act of 2020, enacted October 29, 2020 (D.C. Act 23-435; 67 DCR 12989).