

AN ACT

IN THE COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

To authorize the appropriation of \$14.841 million from the funds distributed to the District of Columbia pursuant to section 903(d) of the Social Security Act to improve the administration of the Unemployment Compensation Program.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA, That this act may be cited as the “Unemployment Compensation Funds Appropriation Authorization Act of 2004”.

Sec. 2. From the funds distributed to the District of Columbia account in the Unemployment Compensation Trust Fund, pursuant to section 903(d) of the Social Security Act, approved August 5, 1954 (68 Stat. 670; 42 U.S.C. § 1103(d)), there is authorized to be appropriated \$7.6 million to be used for the following administrative purposes:

(1) Parallel training of the staff of the Department of Employment Services (“DOES”) to replace the expert contractor staff currently maintaining the unemployment compensation tax and benefits systems;

(2) Funding for the maintenance of the information technology systems supporting the Unemployment Compensation Program and the Virtual One-Stop Career Center System and the development of a system for the direct deposit of unemployment compensation benefit payments;

(3) Promotions for certain career ladder staff in the Offices of Unemployment Compensation and Employment Services of the Department of Employment Services; and

(4) Funding to implement a system to improve the integrity of the Unemployment Compensation program and to reduce the level of overpayments, particularly those attributable to fraud or abuse of the program.

Sec. 3. From the funds distributed to the District of Columbia account in the Unemployment Compensation Trust Fund, pursuant to section 903(d) of the Social Security Act, approved August 5, 1954 (68 Stat. 670; 42 U.S.C. § 1103(d)), there is further authorized to be appropriated \$7.241 million to be used for the following administrative purposes:

ENROLLED ORIGINAL

(1) Installation of a security application portal that will allow for one password to work on all DOES systems;

(2) Conversion of the Automated Benefit System from the present mainframe platform to a Web-based environment, which offers greater flexibility in service;

(3) Installation of the Benefit Audit, Recovery and Tracking System that will support the auditing of Unemployment Compensation benefit payments to verify that payments were made accurately, will identify improperly paid claims, and facilitate recapture of overpaid benefits;

(4) Install Unemployment Insurance ("UI") systems for the Educational Stepladder program as required by the Fiscal Year 2005 Budget Support Act of 2004, signed by the Mayor on August 2, 2004 (D.C. Act 15-487; 51 DCR 8441), and the Fiscal Year 2005 Budget Support Congressional Review Emergency Act of 2004, effective October 26, 2004 (D.C. Act 15-594);

(5) Provide UI customers not enrolled in direct deposit program debit cards to access benefits;

(6) Provide residents with access to job listings by "spidering" association and corporate web pages;

(7) Provide for the exchange of data via a common database between the Web-Enabled Benefits Services benefit payment system and the Virtual One-Stop re-employment services;

(8) Install an automated customer service UI Help Desk;

(9) Change the Unemployment Compensation Benefit and Tax Systems Mainframe programming language from COBOL II to COBOL 390 as mandated by the Office of the Chief Technology Officer;

(10) Provide for changes to the automated tax system that are required by recently enacted federal legislation to detect and prevent State Unemployment Tax dumping, a manipulation by employers to inappropriately lower their UI tax rate; and

(11) To provide for the support of the Information Technology Support Center in Remote System Development.

Sec. 4. Fiscal impact statement.

The Council adopts the fiscal impact statement in the committee report as the fiscal impact statement required by section 602(c)(3) of the District of Columbia Home Rule Act, approved December 24, 1973 (87 Stat. 813; D.C. Official Code § 1-206.02(c)(3)).

Sec. 5. Effective date.

This act shall take effect following approval by the Mayor (or in the event of veto by the Mayor, action by the Council to override the veto), a 30-day period of Congressional review as provided in section 602(c)(1) of the District of Columbia Home Rule Act, approved December 24, 1973 (87 Stat. 813; D.C. Official Code § 1-206.02(c)(1)), and publication in the District of

ENROLLED ORIGINAL

Columbia Register.

Chairman
Council of the District of Columbia

Mayor
District of Columbia