



Senate

General Assembly

File No. 464

February Session, 2026

Senate Bill No. 357

Senate, April 7, 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 CONCERNING UNEMPLOYMENT DEPENDENCY ALLOWANCE.

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

1 Section 1. Section 31-234 of the general statutes is repealed and the
2 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2028*):

3 Each individual who is eligible to receive benefits for unemployment
4 with respect to any week shall be paid with respect to such week a
5 dependency allowance of [~~fifteen~~] forty-five dollars for such
6 individual's nonworking spouse, as defined by regulation, living in the
7 same household with such individual and for each of such individual's
8 children or stepchildren who at the beginning of the individual's current
9 benefit year were being wholly or mainly supported by such individual
10 and were under eighteen years of age or under twenty-one years of age
11 and in full-time attendance in a secondary school, a technical school, a
12 college, or state accredited job training program, or who at the
13 beginning of the individual's benefit year were mentally or physically
14 handicapped and because of such handicap were being wholly or

15 mainly supported by such individual, but in no event shall such
16 allowances exceed the number of whole dollars in one hundred per cent
17 of the total unemployment benefit rate of such individual or be paid
18 with respect to more than five dependents. If the individual acquires
19 any additional dependents in the course of a benefit year, the
20 dependency allowance shall be adjusted accordingly during the next
21 following complete calendar week. Dependency allowances shall be in
22 addition to the unemployment benefits otherwise payable and shall not
23 be considered part of an individual's total unemployment benefit rate
24 and no dependency allowance shall be payable with respect to any week
25 unless an unemployment benefit is also payable with respect to such
26 week. If both spouses receive benefits with respect to a week of
27 unemployment, neither shall be entitled to a dependency allowance
28 with respect to the other and only one of them shall be entitled to a
29 dependency allowance with respect to any child or stepchild.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	<i>July 1, 2028</i>	31-234

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 \$
Labor Dept.	GF - Cost	None	380,000
Labor Dept.	UITF - Cost	None	None

Note: UITF=Unemployment Insurance Trust Fund; GF=General Fund

Municipal Impact: None

Explanation

The bill increases the dependency allowance for individuals eligible to receive unemployment benefits from \$15 to \$45, starting on July 1, 2028. This results in a one-time cost to the Department of Labor (DOL) of \$380,000 in FY 28¹ for technology changes to ReEmployCT².

The Out Years

In addition to the one-time cost identified above, the bill results in an annual cost to the Unemployment Insurance Trust Fund (UITF) of approximately \$10.8 million, starting in FY 29.

According to the DOL, an average of \$5.4 million was paid for dependency allowances over the past three fiscal years. The estimated amounts may fluctuate depending on economic conditions (e.g. unemployment levels).

¹ The cost would be incurred in FY 28 to ensure the system is operational prior to the beginning of FY 29.

² DOL's unemployment tax and benefits system.

OLR Bill Analysis**SB 357****AN ACT CONCERNING UNEMPLOYMENT DEPENDENCY ALLOWANCE.****SUMMARY**

This bill increases, from \$15 to \$45, the weekly unemployment benefit allowance that an eligible claimant receives for each dependent in addition to his or her regular unemployment benefits.

By law, the allowances are available for up to five dependents, and the total allowances cannot exceed the claimant's regular unemployment benefit. Dependents that qualify for the allowance are a claimant's (1) non-working spouse who lives in the same household with the claimant and (2) children or stepchildren who, at the start of the claimant's benefit year, were wholly or mainly supported by the claimant and (a) under age 18 (or age 21 if in full-time secondary school, technical school, college, or state accredited job training program) or (b) mentally or physically disabled. If both spouses are receiving unemployment benefits at the same time, neither can receive a dependency allowance for the other, and only one can claim the allowance for their children.

EFFECTIVE DATE: July 1, 2028

COMMITTEE ACTION

Labor and Public Employees Committee

Joint Favorable

Yea 9 Nay 4 (03/19/2026)