



General Assembly

**Substitute Bill No. 354**

February Session, 2026



**AN ACT CONCERNING STAFFING IN THE UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE BENEFITS DIVISION IN THE LABOR DEPARTMENT.**

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

1 Section 1. (*Effective from passage*) (a) For the fiscal year ending June 30,  
2 2027, the Labor Commissioner shall employ not fewer than the number  
3 of employees at the Unemployment Insurance Benefits Division within  
4 the Labor Department employed at such division on September 30, 2025.

5 (b) Not later than July 1, 2027, the Labor Commissioner shall hire an  
6 additional twenty-five employees to such division for the purpose of  
7 processing and administering unemployment benefit claims.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	<i>from passage</i>	New section

**Statement of Legislative Commissioners:**

In Subsec. (a), "not less than the" was changed to "not fewer than the" for clarity.

**LAB** Joint Favorable Subst.