

SENATE BUDGET AND APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE

STATEMENT TO

[First Reprint]

SENATE, No. 3215

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

DATED: MARCH 6, 2023

The Senate Budget and Appropriations Committee reports favorably Senate Bill No. 3215 (1R).

The bill modifies conditions under which employees involved in a labor dispute may obtain unemployment insurance (UI) benefits. The bill:

1. Permits the payment of UI benefits during an employer lockout even if there was not a strike immediately preceding the lockout;

2. Decreases from 30 days to 14 days the period of time following the commencement of unemployment caused by a labor dispute before which UI benefits may be paid, but specifies that benefits be paid to claimants immediately, even during the 14-day period, if replacement workers are hired to take positions of the claimants, whether or not the replacement workers are purported to be “permanent”, and removes the penalty of up to \$750 per week against employers who state that a replacement worker is not “permanent” but fails to rehire the replaced worker when the dispute ends;

3. Provides that the 14-day waiting period does not apply if the labor dispute has not resulted in a stoppage of work and does not apply whenever the employer engages the services of a replacement worker for the claimant's position, whether on a permanent or temporary basis, or uses an existing worker reassigned permanently or temporarily to perform duties of the claimant; and

4. Clarifies that there is no disqualification of a claim due to a labor dispute if an issue in the labor dispute is a failure or refusal of the employer to comply with an agreement or contract between the employer and the claimant, including a collective bargaining agreement with a union representing the claimant, or a failure or refusal to comply with a State or federal law pertaining to hours, wages, or other conditions of work, even if the failure or refusal is not the only issue in the labor dispute.

As reported by the committee, Senate Bill No. 3215 (1R) is identical to Assembly Bill No. 4772 (2R), which was also reported by the committee on this date.

FISCAL IMPACT:

This bill has not been certified as requiring a fiscal note.