

ASSEMBLY APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE

STATEMENT TO

ASSEMBLY, No. 5531

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

DATED: DECEMBER 13, 2021

The Assembly Appropriations Committee reports favorably Assembly Bill No. 5531.

This bill exempts from coverage under the "unemployment compensation law," R.S.43:21-1 et seq., any services provided by a commercial fisherman whose compensation is comprised solely of a percentage of fish caught or a percentage of the proceeds from the sale of the catch. The exempted commercial fisherman would not be subject to unemployment insurance (UI) taxes and not be eligible for UI benefits.

As reported by the committee, Assembly Bill No. 5531 is identical to Senate Bill No. 3501 which was also reported by the committee on this date.

FISCAL IMPACT:

The Office of Legislative Services (OLS) notes that the bill will result in annual indeterminate, likely marginal, decreases in revenues and expenditures to the Unemployment Compensation (UI) Fund. The revenue and expenditure decreases will be realized by exempting commercial fishermen, whose compensation is comprised solely of a percentage of fish caught or a percentage of the proceeds from the sale of the catch, from UI compensation benefits and also exempting them from liability to UI taxes. The OLS also notes that the bill may potentially decrease revenues and expenditures to the State Disability Benefit Fund by an indeterminate and nominal amount.