

**COMMISSION ON UNEMPLOYMENT COMPENSATION**  
**EXECUTIVE SUMMARY OF 2024 INTERIM ACTIVITY AND WORK**

January 2025

**I. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

Chapter 33 (§ 30-218 et seq.) of Title 30 of the Code of Virginia establishes the Commission on Unemployment Compensation (the Commission). The Commission is charged with:

- Evaluating the impact of existing statutes and proposed legislation on unemployment compensation and the Unemployment Trust Fund (the trust fund);
- Assessing the Commonwealth's unemployment compensation program and examining ways to enhance effectiveness;
- Monitoring the current status and long-term projections for the trust fund; and
- Reporting annually its findings and recommendations to the General Assembly and the Governor.

The Commission's membership is composed of Senators Adam P. Ebbin, Bill DeSteph, and Christie New Craig and Delegates Elizabeth B. Bennett-Parker, Destiny L. LeVere Bolling, Candi Mundon King, Chris Runion, and C. Todd Gilbert. Senator Ebbin serves as the chair of the Commission.

The Commission met on December 4, 2024. Although § 30-220 of the Code of Virginia requires that the Commission meet at least two times per year, a second meeting was not held as a result of scheduling difficulties.

The Commission's Unemployment Insurance Subcommittee (UI Subcommittee), established pursuant to § 30-222, met on October 8, 2024. At such meeting, Demetrios "Mitch" Melis, Commissioner of the Virginia Employment Commission, presented updates on the Commonwealth's Unemployment Insurance program.

This executive summary of the interim activity and work of the Commission is submitted pursuant to § 30-224 of the Code of Virginia and is provided in lieu of an annual report.

**II. LEGISLATION RECOMMENDED**

The Commission voted to recommend the following legislation for the General Assembly's 2024 legislative session:

**SB 1056** (Ebbin) / **HB 1766** (Martinez)

**Unemployment compensation; increase weekly benefit amounts; report.** For unemployment compensation claims effective on or after January 1, 2026, an eligible individual's weekly benefit amount shall be \$100 higher than the current weekly benefit amount, as denoted in the table in the bill. The bill directs the Commission on Unemployment Compensation, in consultation with the Virginia Employment Commission, to convene a work group to study making annual adjustments to individual weekly benefit amounts based on the average weekly wage. This bill is a recommendation of the Commission on Unemployment Compensation.

**SB 1057** (Ebbin)

**Unemployment insurance; weekly benefit amount; increasing threshold for deduction of wages payable.** Provides that each individual eligible for unemployment benefits shall be paid a weekly benefit amount less any part of the wages payable to such individual for such week that is in excess of \$100. Currently, each eligible individual shall be paid a weekly benefit amount less any part of the wages payable to such individual for such week that is in excess of \$50. This bill is a recommendation of the Commission on Unemployment Compensation.

**HB 2135** (Keys-Gamarra)

**Unemployment compensation: allowance for dependents.** Provides that, in addition to the weekly unemployment benefit amount determined by relevant law, an eligible claimant who is unemployed in any week shall be paid an allowance of \$25 for each of up to three dependents of such claimant. The bill defines "dependent" as the child, adopted child, or stepchild of a claimant who, on January 1 of the benefit year, is wholly or partly supported by such claimant and younger than 16 years of age. The bill requires any claimant declaring one or more dependents to provide proof of such dependents in a form and manner prescribed by the Commission in conformance with certain conditions enumerated in the bill. This bill is a recommendation of the Commission on Unemployment Compensation.

**III. CONCLUSION**

Materials provided by speakers at the Commission's meetings in the 2024 interim may be found on the [Commission's website](#).