## SUBSTITUTE FOR SENATE BILL NO. 981

A bill to amend 1936 (Ex Sess) PA 1, entitled "Michigan employment security act,"

by amending sections 3, 4, 5, 5a, 5b, 6a, 8, 9, 10, and 10a (MCL 421.3, 421.4, 421.5, 421.5a, 421.5b, 421.6a, 421.8, 421.9, 421.10, and 421.10a), section 3 as amended by 2003 PA 174, section 4 as amended and section 5b as added by 2002 PA 192, section 5 as amended by 1983 PA 164, section 5a as amended by 2017 PA 227, section 6a as amended by 2011 PA 269, section 8 as amended by 1996 PA 535, section 10 as amended by 2016 PA 517, and section 10a as added by 2011 PA 268; and to repeal acts and parts of acts.

## THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF MICHIGAN ENACT:

Sec. 3. (1) The bureau of worker's and unemployment
 compensation insurance agency shall establish policies in





- 1 conformity with this act to do all of the following:
- 2 (a) Reduce and prevent unemployment.
- 3 (b) Promote the reemployment of unemployed workers throughout4 this state in every other way that may be feasible.
- (c) Carry on and publish the results of investigations andresearch studies.
- 7 (d) Investigate, recommend, advise, and assist in the
  8 establishment and operation, by municipalities, counties, school
  9 districts, and this state, of reserves for public works to be used
  10 in times of business depression and unemployment.
  - (2) As used in this act:
- 12 (a) "Bureau", "commission", and "unemployment agency", and
  13 "unemployment insurance agency" mean the bureau of worker's and
  14 unemployment compensation insurance agency created in section
  15 5b.within the department of labor and economic growth under
  16 Executive Reorganization Order No. 2003-1, MCL 445.2011.
- (b) "Director" means the director of the <del>bureau of worker's</del>
   and unemployment <del>compensation.insurance agency.</del>
  - (c) "Experience account" means an account in the unemployment compensation fund showing an employer's experience with respect to contribution payments and benefit charges under this act, determined and recorded in the manner provided in this act. A reference in this act to an employer's "experience record" or "rating account" shall be construed to include reference to the employer's experience account.
- (d) "Nonchargeable benefits account" and "solvency account"
  mean the account in the unemployment compensation fund maintained
  as provided in section 17(2) and (3).
- 29 Sec. 4. (1) The bureau may unemployment insurance agency shall

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promulgate rules and regulations that it determines necessary, and that are not inconsistent with to implement this act, to carry out this act.under the administrative procedures act of 1969, 1969 PA 306, MCL 24.201 to 24.328.

the public the text of this act, and all rules and regulations of the bureau, and unemployment insurance agency shall make available to the public upon on request statements of all informal rules or criteria of decision, administrative policies, or interpretations, which may be utilized used by the bureau unemployment insurance agency or any of its agents or employees in any manner, except as provided under section 11.

(3) No rule or regulation shall be made or changed until after public hearing, notice of which shall first be given not less than 20 days before the hearing, by publication in at least 3 newspapers of general circulation in different parts of this state, 1 of which shall be in the Upper Peninsula. Copies of proposed rules or regulations shall be furnished by the bureau upon application by any interested parties. Rules and regulations shall become effective in accordance with the administrative procedures act of 1969, 1969 PA 306, MCL 24.201 to 24.328.

Sec. 5. (1) The commission by affirmative vote of not less than 3 of its members shall appoint an administrative officer, hereinafter referred to as the director, who shall serve at the pleasure of the commission and shall act as secretary of the commission and shall perform other duties as shall be delegated by the commission. The director shall must receive an annual salary as established annually by the legislature and shall be is entitled to the actual and necessary expenses incurred in the discharge of his

or her the director's official duties, to be paid from the 1 administration fund. The director shall devote his or her the 2 director's entire time to the duties of the office. The director 3 may appoint , with the approval of the commission, employees and 4 5 assistants as shall be necessary for the proper exercise of the 6 powers hereby granted, director's official duties and subject to 7 the approval of the commission may delegate to those employees or 8 assistants the authority as he or she the director considers 9 reasonable and necessary. Employees and assistants shall must 10 receive their actual and necessary expenses incurred in the 11 discharge of their official duties. Compensation and expenses of 12 the director, and all assistants, and employees shall must be paid 13 from the administration fund. The commission may incur expenses as 14 shall be required to carry out this act. 15 (2) The commission shall arrange for a suitable bond for any 16 person holding moneys or signing checks or vouchers under this act. 17 The cost of the bond shall be paid from the administration fund under section 10. 18 19 (3) The director, in consultation with the commission, shall 20 appoint not to exceed 20 persons who shall be law students or other 21 persons who have previous experience in unemployment compensation for the purposes of providing assistance to employers in 22 23 interpreting the provisions of this act and to represent claimants 24 at the referee and board of review hearing levels. Appointments 25 made under this subsection shall not exceed 20 full-time equivalent positions and shall terminate April 1, 1986. 26 27 Sec. 5a. (1) For calendar years beginning January 1, 1994 and ending December 31, 1998, the The unemployment insurance agency 28

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shall develop and implement a program to provide, upon on request,

- 1 claimant and employer advocacy assistance or consultation. The
- 2 purpose of the program is to provide information, consultation, and
- 3 representation to claimants and employers relating to the referee
- 4 or board of review appeal levels, in proceedings conducted by the
- 5 Michigan office of administrative hearings and rules, the
- 6 unemployment insurance appeals commission, or both.
- 7 (2) The program must be funded from the penalty and interest
- 8 account in the contingent fund. If the program does not operate or
- 9 the legislature fails to does not approve a yearly appropriation
- 10 for the program in an amount at least equal to the maximum yearly
- 11 expenditure for the program as provided in this subsection, then
- 12 the provision of section 19(a)(5) reducing the maximum
- 13 nonchargeable benefits component from 1% to 1/2 of 1% is not
- 14 effective for a tax year for which the appropriation is not made or
- 15 in which the program does not operate. For fiscal years beginning
- on and after October 1, 1994, the The maximum amount of the
- 17 expenditure for the program each year must not exceed
- **18** \$1,500,000.00.
- 19 (3) The appropriations must be used to finance all costs
- 20 connected with the program. Costs related to the representation of
- 21 claimants must not exceed 60% of the maximum expenditure allowed in
- 22 each fiscal year, and costs related to the representation of
- 23 employers must not exceed 40% of the maximum expenditure allowed in
- 24 each fiscal year.
- 25 (4) Before an individual provides advocacy assistance services
- 26 under this section, the individual must apply to the unemployment
- 27 insurance agency for approval. The unemployment insurance agency
- 28 shall develop standards for individuals providing who provide
- 29 advocacy assistance services including standards relating to

- 1 knowledge of this act and the practices and procedures at of the
- 2 referee and board of review appeal levels. Michigan office of
- 3 administrative hearings and rules and the unemployment insurance
- 4 appeals commission. An individual who is not an attorney may
- 5 provide advocacy assistance services. The unemployment insurance
- 6 agency shall develop a schedule for payment of individuals
- 7 providing advocacy assistance services. Active unemployment
- 8 insurance agency or state employees shall not provide advocacy
- 9 assistance services. The only active state or unemployment
- 10 insurance agency employees involved in the program shall be are
- 11 those supervising or coordinating the program.
- 12 (5) The unemployment insurance agency may include in the
- 13 program standards regarding the provision of advocacy assistance
- 14 services in precedent setting cases, multiclaimant cases, cases
- 15 without merit, or regarding other cases or factors as determined by
- 16 the unemployment insurance agency. However, to the extent that
- 17 funding is available from the appropriation under subsection (2),
- 18 the unemployment insurance agency shall not withhold advocacy
- 19 assistance services in cases involving fraud under section 54. If
- 20 the unemployment insurance agency makes a final determination or
- 21 final redetermination or an administrative law judge, the Michigan
- 22 compensation appellate unemployment insurance appeals commission,
- 23 or a court makes a final order that an employer or claimant who
- 24 received advocacy assistant services committed fraud under section
- 25 54, the unemployment insurance agency shall make an effort to
- 26 recover from the employer or claimant, respectively, an amount
- 27 equal to the representation fees associated with the advocacy
- 28 assistance services provided to the employer or claimant,
- 29 respectively.

- (6) Individuals who are approved by the unemployment insurance agency to provide advocacy assistance services shall must enter into a contract with the unemployment insurance agency that states that the payments made pursuant to based on the schedule established by the unemployment insurance agency are payment in full for all services rendered and expenses incurred and that the claimant or employer who has received the benefit of the services will not be billed for and is not liable for the cost of the services or representation provided. An individual approved by the unemployment insurance agency to provide advocacy assistance services shall must accept only the fee approved by the unemployment insurance agency for the services and shall must not accept any other fee for the services from the claimant or the employer.
  - (7) If a claimant or an employer receives advocacy assistance services beyond an initial consultation, the other party in the case must be immediately notified. The unemployment insurance agency shall include in the program provisions to determine the method and the timeliness by which immediate notice must be provided. The unemployment insurance agency shall not approve the same individual to provide advocacy assistance services for both claimants and employers. The unemployment insurance agency shall clearly designate each individual approved to provide services under this section as representing either claimants or employers. An individual approved by the unemployment insurance agency to provide advocacy assistance services is not entitled to payment under this section for representing the individual's own personal interests. An active state employee shall not represent a claimant or an employer under this program at the referee or board of review

- 1 appeal levels. a hearing conducted by the Michigan office of
- 2 administrative hearings and rules or the unemployment insurance
- 3 appeals commission. However, this subsection does not prohibit an
- 4 employee of the unemployment insurance agency from participating in
- 5 a case in which the unemployment insurance agency is an interested
- 6 party or from representing the unemployment insurance agency's
- 7 interest when acting as an administrator for a federal program as
- 8 required by federal law.
- 9 (8) The unemployment insurance agency shall make an annual
- 10 report to the legislature on the operation of the program. The
- 11 first report under this subsection is due within 60 days after the
- 12 first anniversary date of the beginning of the program. Each report
- 13 under this subsection must include, but  $\frac{is}{is}$  not **be** limited to, the
- 14 following for the previous 12-month period:
- 15 (a) Number and type of claimants served.
- 16 (b) Number and type of employers served.
- (c) Costs to the program of the claimants served.
- 18 (d) Costs to the program of the employers served.
- (e) An analysis of the impact of the services provided on the
- 20 appeal system provided by this act.
- Sec. 5b. (1) The bureau of worker's and unemployment
- 22 compensation is created within the department of consumer and
- 23 industry services.
- 24 (2) The bureau shall be headed by a director who shall be of
- 25 the unemployment insurance agency is appointed by the governor.
- 26 (3) All of the authority, powers, functions, duties, and
- 27 responsibilities of the unemployment agency provided under this act
- 28 are transferred to the bureau as provided in Executive Order No.
- **29** <del>2002-1.</del>

- (4) All of the powers, functions, duties, and responsibilities
  of the director of the unemployment agency, defined as the director
  of employment security in Executive Order No. 1997-12, provided
  under this act are transferred to the director as provided in
- 5 Executive Order No. 2002-1.
- Sec. 6a. (1) The Except as otherwise provided in section 11, a writing prepared, owned, used, in the possession of, or retained by the unemployment insurance agency may destroy or dispose of a
- 9 document as soon as practicable after the document has been
- 10 electronically captured and preserved in an information retrieval
- $11 \quad { ext{system.}}$  in the performance of an official function is subject to
- 12 all of the following:
- 13 (a) The freedom of information act, 1976 PA 442, MCL 15.231 to 14 15.246.
- 15 (b) Sections 284 to 292 of the management and budget act, 1984 16 PA 431, MCL 18.1284 to 18.1292.
- 17 (c) The Michigan history center act, 2016 PA 470, MCL 399.801 18 to 399.812.
- 19 (2) Electronically stored records shall must be retained for
  20 the same minimum retention period as required for the original
  21 record. If an original document is destroyed or disposed of
  22 pursuant to under this section, a reproduction of the document
  23 reproduced in a medium pursuant to the records reproduction act,
  24 1992 PA 116, MCL 24.401 to 24.406, is admissible in evidence in the
- ${f 25}$  same  ${f manner}$  as the original in any proceeding before the
- 26 commission, unemployment insurance agency, an administrative law
- 27 judge, or Michigan compensation appellate the unemployment
- 28 insurance appeals commission, and in all courts. Information
- 29 contained on printouts prepared by automatic data processing

equipment is also admissible in evidence, if the original documents

2 from which such the information was obtained would have been admissible. 3 Sec. 8. A basic purpose of this act is to lighten the burden 4 5 of involuntary unemployment on the unemployed worker and his the 6 worker's family. In view of this, the maximum weekly benefit rates 7 under section 27(b) are related to the cost of the necessities of 8 life for the various dependency classes recognized in that section. 9 At the same time, the legislature has concluded that the maximum 10 weekly benefit rates established in that section will finance the 11 most favorable standard of living consistent with maintaining for 12 unemployed individuals generally a proper incentive to seek and accept new work. To maintain this optimum relationship between 13 14 maximum weekly benefit rates and the standard of living of the 15 unemployed individual, the maximum weekly benefit rates established 16 shall must be reviewed annually. The commission unemployment 17 insurance agency shall annually, not later than February 28, 18 compare the United States department of labor's consumers' price index Consumer Price Index from the United States Department of 19 20 Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics, for the preceding December with 21 the corresponding United States department of labor's consumers' 22 price index Consumer Price Index from the United States Department 23 of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics, for the base month. The base 24 month, as used in this subsection, means the month of June 1974, 25 which shall remain the base month until the next adjustment of 26 maximum weekly benefit rates is made. Thereafter, the The base 27 month shall be is the month of December preceding the most recent calendar year in which an adjustment of maximum weekly benefit 28 29 rates is made. If in a calendar year the United States department

- 1 of labor's consumers' price index Consumer Price Index from the
- 2 United States Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics, for
- 3 the preceding December has increased or decreased as compared to
- 4 the base month, the commission unemployment insurance agency shall
- 5 determine the percentage of that increase or decrease. The
- 6 commission—unemployment insurance agency shall then multiply the
- 7 maximum weekly benefit rate for each dependency class by this
- 8 percentage. If the product thus obtained is \$1.00 , or more, the
- 9 commission unemployment insurance agency shall report that fact to
- 10 the governor , and the legislature. , and the Michigan employment
- 11 security advisory council.
- 12 Sec. 9. (1) The commission may by itself, unemployment
- 13 insurance agency or by—its duly appointed agents may examine or
- 14 copy the books, records, and papers of any employing unit relating
- 15 to any requirement pertaining to this act. Any member of the
- 16 commission unemployment insurance agency or its duly authorized
- 17 agents may issue a subpoena requiring that requires any person to
- 18 appear do any of the following:
- 19 (a) Appear before the commission, unemployment insurance
- 20 agency or its duly authorized agent agents at any reasonable time
- 21 and place. , and be
- 22 (b) Be examined with reference to any matter within the scope
- 23 of the inquiry or investigation being conducted by the <del>commission</del>
- 24 and to produce unemployment insurance agency.
- (c) Produce any books, records, or papers pertaining to the
- 26 question involved.
- 27 (2) Any member of the commission unemployment insurance agency
- 28 or its duly authorized agents may administer an oath or affirmation
- 29 to a witness in any matter before the commission, unemployment

- insurance agency, certify to official acts, and take depositions.
   In case of disobedience of
- 3 (3) If a person disobeys a subpoena, the commission,
- 4 unemployment insurance agency or the party on whose behalf it the
- 5 subpoena was issued may invoke the aid of any circuit court of
- 6 the this state in requiring to require the attendance and testimony
- 7 of witnesses and the production of books, records, and papers
- 8 pertaining to the question involved. And any Any of the circuit
- 9 courts of the this state within the jurisdiction of which such the
- 10 inquiry is carried on may, in case of contumacy or if the refusal
- 11 to obey a subpoena continues, issue an order requiring such the
- 12 person to appear before said commission the unemployment insurance
- 13 agency or its duly authorized agents and to produce books, records,
- 14 and papers if so ordered and give evidence touching the matter in
- 15 question. ; and The circuit court may punish any failure to obey
- 16 such its order of the court may be punished by such court as a
- 17 contempt thereof.of court.
- 18 (4) No person shall be An individual is not excused from
- 19 testifying or from producing any books, records, or papers in any
- 20 investigation, or upon any hearing, when ordered to do so by the
- 21 commission, unemployment insurance agency or its duly authorized
- 22 agents, upon on the ground that the testimony or evidence,
- 23 documentary or otherwise, may tend to incriminate him-the
- 24 individual or subject him the individual to a criminal penalty. +
- 25 but no person shall An individual must not be prosecuted or
- 26 subjected to any criminal penalty for, or on account of, any
- 27 transaction made or thing concerning which he the individual is
- 28 compelled, upon the claiming of his the individual's privilege to
- 29 testify. No person so testifying shall be An individual who

testifies is not exempt from prosecution and punishment for perjury
committed in so\_testifying.

Sec. 10. (1) There is created in the department of treasury a special fund to be known and designated as the administration fund (Michigan employment security act). Any balances in the administration fund at the end of any fiscal year of this state shall must be carried over as a part of the administration fund and shall do not revert to the general fund of this state. Except as otherwise provided in subsection (3), all money deposited into the administration fund under this act shall must be appropriated by the legislature to the unemployment insurance agency to pay the expenses of the administration of this act.

- (2) The administration fund shall must be credited with all money appropriated to the fund by the legislature, all money received from the United States or any agency of the United States for that purpose, and all money received by this state for the fund. All money in the administration fund that is received from the federal government or any agency of the federal government or that is appropriated by this state for the purposes of this act, except money requisitioned from the account of this state in the unemployment trust fund pursuant to a specific appropriation made by the legislature in accordance with section 903(c)(2) of title IX of the social security act, 42 USC 1103(e)(2), 1103, and with section 17(3)(f), shall must be expended solely for the purposes and in the amounts found necessary by the appropriate agency of the United States and the legislature for the proper and efficient administration of this act.
- (3) All money requisitioned from the account of this state in the unemployment trust fund pursuant to a specific appropriation

- 1 made by the legislature in accordance with section 903(c)(2) of
- 2 title IX of the social security act, 42 USC  $\frac{1103(c)(2)}{1103}$ , and
- 3 with section 17(3)(f), shall must be deposited in the
- 4 administration fund. Any money that remains unexpended at the close
- 5 of the 2-year period beginning on the date of enactment of a
- 6 specific appropriation shall must be immediately redeposited with
- 7 the secretary of the treasury of the United States to the credit of
- 8 this state's account in the unemployment trust fund; or any money
- 9 that for any reason cannot be expended or is not to be expended for
- 10 the purpose for which appropriated before the close of this 2-year
- 11 period shall must be redeposited at the earliest practicable date.
- 12 (4) If any money received after June 30, 1941, from the 13 appropriate agency of the United States under title III of the 14 social security act, 42 USC 501 to 504, or any unencumbered
- 15 balances in the administration fund (Michigan employment security
- 16 act) as of that date, or any money granted after that date to this
- 17 state under the Wagner-Peyser act, as **that term is** defined in
- 18 section 12, or any money made available by this state or its
- 19 political subdivisions and matched by money granted to this state
- 20 under the Wagner-Peyser act, is found by the appropriate agency of
- 21 the United States, because of any action or contingency, to have
- 22 been lost or been expended for purposes other than, or in amounts
- 23 in excess of, those found necessary by that agency of the United
- 24 States for the proper administration of this act, the money shall
- 25 must be replaced by money appropriated for that purpose from the
- 26 general funds of this state to the administration fund (Michigan
- 27 employment security act) for expenditure as provided in this act.
- 28 Upon receipt of notice of such a finding by the appropriate agency
- 29 of the United States, the unemployment insurance agency shall

- promptly report the amount required for replacement to the governor and the governor shall, at the earliest opportunity, submit to the legislature a request for the appropriation of that amount. This subsection does not relieve this state of its obligation with respect to funds received prior to before July 1, 1941, under the provisions of 42 USC 501 to 504.
- (5) If any funds expended or disbursed by the unemployment insurance agency are found by the appropriate agency of the United States to have been lost or expended for purposes other than, or in amounts in excess of, those found necessary by that agency of the United States for the proper administration of this act, and if these funds are replaced as provided in subsection (4) by money appropriated for that purpose from the general fund of this state, then the director who approved the expenditure or disbursement of those funds for those purposes or in those amounts, is liable to this state in an amount equal to the sum of money appropriated to replace those funds.
  - (6) There is created in the department of treasury a separate fund to be known as the contingent fund (Michigan employment security act). into which shall be deposited all All solvency taxes collected under section 19a and all interest on contributions, penalties, and damages collected under this act must be deposited into the contingent fund (Michigan employment security act). Except as provided in subsection (7), all All amounts in the contingent fund (Michigan employment security act) and all earnings on those amounts are continuously appropriated without regard to fiscal year for the administration of the talent investment agency, as established under Executive Reorganization Order No. 2014-6, MCL 125.1995, unemployment insurance and workforce development

programs, including, but not limited to, the development and 1 execution of workforce training programs, and for the payment of 2 interest on advances from the federal government to the 3 unemployment compensation fund under 42 USC 1321, to be expended 4 5 only if authorized by the unemployment insurance agency. Money 6 deposited from the solvency taxes collected under section 19a shall 7 must not be used for the administration of the unemployment 8 insurance agency, except for the repayment of loans from the state 9 treasury and interest on loans made under section 19a(3). However, 10 an authorization or expenditure shall must not be made as a 11 substitution for a grant of federal funds or for any portion of a grant that, in the absence of an authorization, would be available 12 to the unemployment insurance agency. Immediately upon receipt of 13 14 administrative grants from the appropriate agency of the United 15 States to cover administrative costs for which the unemployment 16 insurance agency has authorized and made expenditures from the 17 contingent fund, those grants shall must be transferred to the 18 contingent fund to the extent necessary to reimburse the contingent 19 fund for the amount of those expenditures. Amounts needed to refund 20 interest, damages, and penalties erroneously collected shall must 21 be withdrawn and expended for those purposes from the contingent 22 fund upon order of the unemployment insurance agency. Any amount 23 authorized to be expended for administration under this section may 24 be transferred to the administration fund. An amount not needed for 25 the purpose for which authorized shall, must, upon order of the unemployment insurance agency, be returned to the contingent fund. 26 27 Amounts needed to refund erroneously collected solvency taxes shall must be withdrawn and expended for that purpose upon order of the 28 29 unemployment insurance agency.

- (7) For the fiscal year ending September 30, 2017 only, \$10,000,000.00 of the money in the contingent fund created in subsection (6) is transferred to and shall be deposited into the general fund.
- Sec. 10a. (1) The obligation trust fund is created as a separate fund in the state treasury. The assets of the obligation trust fund shall must not be commingled with any other fund and shall must not be considered part of the general fund of the this state.
- 10 (2) The state treasurer may receive money or other assets from 11 any source for deposit into the fund. All obligation assessments on 12 employers collected under section 26a; all interest on payments, penalties, and damages collected in connection with the obligation 13 14 assessments made under section 26a; and a portion of the proceeds 15 of any obligations, as described in section 26a, in amounts 16 specified by the issuer, shall must be deposited into the 17 obligation trust fund. The state treasurer shall direct the investment of the fund. The state treasurer shall credit to the 18 19 fund interest and earnings from fund investments.
  - (3) Money in the obligation trust fund at the close of the fiscal year shall remain-remains in the fund and shall does not lapse to the general fund. Money in the fund is continuously appropriated for the purposes specified in section 26a.
- (4) The department of licensing and regulatory affairs shall
   be—labor and economic opportunity is the administrator of the fund
   for auditing purposes.
- 27 (5) The department of licensing and regulatory affairs labor
  28 and economic opportunity shall expend money from the fund only for
  29 1 or more of the following purposes:

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- (a) To pay obligations, administrative expenses, and
   associated expenses described in section 26a.
- 3 (b) To refund erroneously collected assessments under section4 26a.
- 5 (c) For any other purpose described in section 26a(1).
- 6 Enacting section 1. Sections 3a, 4a, 6, and 6b to 7 of the
- 7 Michigan employment security act, 1936 (Ex Sess) PA 1, MCL 421.3a,
- **8** 421.4a, 421.6, and 421.6b to 421.7, are repealed.
- 9 Enacting section 2. This amendatory act does not take effect
- 10 unless Senate Bill No. 40 of the 102nd Legislature is enacted into
- **11** law.

