RÉSUMÉ DIGEST

ACT 184 (HB 923) **2026 Regular Session** **Berault**

New law provides relative to the continuous technical corrections and revisions of provisions of Title 23 of the La. Revised Statutes of 1950.

New law provides that it is the legislature's intent to provide a comprehensive, streamlined social services and workforce delivery system that incorporates integrated case management models for customers and their families served by multiple departments and programs.

New law defines "integrated case management", "integrated service plan", and "service integration".

Prior law provided that the provisions of existing law (R.S. 23:1-33) were intended to maximize community participation in the administration and implementation of programs designed to develop employment opportunities for individuals with low income and to ameliorate the impact of the income level on their physical and mental well-being.

New law instead provides that the provisions of existing law (R.S. 23:1-33) are intended to provide assistance to local communities by working through a network of community action agencies to support employment in order to reduce poverty, revitalize low-income communities, and stabilize low-income families and individuals in rural and urban areas to allow them to become fully self-sufficient.

Existing law defines "community action agency", "community action program", "low income", and "One Door".

New law amends the definitions of "community action agency", "community action program", "low income", and "One Door".

Prior law required the parish governing authority to annually designate a community action agency to administer the applicable provisions of existing law (R.S. 23:1-33).

Prior law required the parish governing authority, prior to the designation, to conduct a public hearing after giving public notice of its intention to designate an agency.

New law repeals prior law.

Prior law required the public hearing to include an evaluation of the administrative and programmatic capabilities of the agency or agencies under consideration for designation as the community action agency for the area. Prior law also required consideration of previous accomplishments of the agency or agencies under consideration for designation.

New law repeals prior law.

New law defines a community action agency as an entity which was previously designated or is designated by federal law, provisions of existing law (R.S. 23:64.1), as amended, or any other mechanism defined by federal law.

New law establishes La. Works as the designated lead agency for the purposes of carrying out state activities as provided for in the Community Services Block Grant Act.

New law requires La. Works to develop a state plan with assurances that funds made available to community action agencies are utilized for any of the following purposes:

(1) To secure and retain meaningful employment.

(2) To attain an adequate education.

(3) To make better use of available income.

(4) To secure and maintain adequate housing.

(5) To obtain emergency assistance through loans or grants to meet immediate and urgent individual and family needs.

(6) To make more frequent and effective use of other programs, public and private, that offer services related to the purpose of existing law (R.S. 23:1-33), as amended.

Existing law allows, at the request of a legislator or a legislative delegation representing districts in which the community action agency provides services, the Joint Legislative Committee on the Budget to direct La. Works, the appropriate state funding agency, or the legislative fiscal office to conduct evaluations of community action agencies.

Existing law provides the framework for what may be included in the evaluations and who the evaluations must be transmitted to.

New law makes technical corrections and otherwise retains existing law.

Existing law requires a community action agency to do all of the following:

(1) Compile information and data that reflects the needs of low-income individuals in the geographical area served by the agency and identify the extent to which those needs are unmet by public and private agencies serving the area.

(2) Develop and implement programs and projects designed to serve unmet needs of individuals with low income and provide for maximum feasible participation in these programs and projects by eligible individuals.

(3) Establish procedures and adopt rules which enable area residents to influence the character of services provided by community action agencies.

(4) Join with and encourage private organizations to undertake activities in support of the community action program that will result in additional use of private resources and capabilities in accomplishing existing law.

(5) Provide technical assistance to public and private agencies engaged in activities related to the community action program to enable them to seek out, secure, and administer public and private funds available for their activities.

(6) Provide other services that are determined by La. Works to be consistent with the purposes of existing law.

New law removes the requirement of providing technical assistance to public and private agencies and otherwise retains existing law.

Prior law required each community action agency to prepare and submit annually a budget document to La. Works, the House Committee on Municipal, Parochial and Cultural Affairs, the Senate Committee on Local and Municipal Affairs, and the Joint Legislative Committee on the Budget. Prior law further required the document to be submitted no later than 60 days prior to the end of the applicable fiscal year period.

New law instead requires each community action agency to submit the budget document to La. Works only and removes the time period for when the document was statutorily required to be submitted.

Prior law required the chief administrative officer of the community action agency to prepare the budget document and provided that, at a minimum, the following shall be included in the document:

(1) A budget message signed by the officer, which presented a summary description of the proposed financial plan, policies, and objectives.

(2) A detailed and comprehensive breakdown for the current and succeeding fiscal year periods of all programs administered, estimates of all grants and funds received, estimates of expenditures itemized by function and object, incurred administrative costs, and contractual services secured.

New law instead provides that the budget document shall only include a detailed and comprehensive breakdown with Community Services Block Grant (CSBG) funds for the grant periods of all programs administered, estimates of expenditures itemized by function and object, incurred administrative costs, and contractual services secured.

Existing law allows La. Works, or the appropriate funding agency, to impose any requirements and restrictions upon the execution of community action budgets, specifically outlining sound fiscal management, internal controls, budgetary compliance, and overall fiscal accountability.

Existing law further requires quarterly reporting of actual revenue receipts and expenditures and all other deviations from the original budget submission.

New law makes a technical correction and otherwise retains existing law.

Prior law required departments to report to the La. Works, the House Committee on Municipal, Parochial and Cultural Affairs, the Senate Committee on Local and Municipal Affairs, and the Joint Legislative Committee on the Budget instances in which the community action agency's operation failed to comply with statutory requirements.

New law removes this reporting requirement.

Prior law required each community action agency or private nonprofit organization to administer its programs through a governing board. Prior law further provided the numerical makeup of the board.

New law instead requires each community action agency to administer its programs through a governing board and revises the guidelines for the numerical makeup of the board.

New law allows agencies that are serving parishes that meet the definition of rural areas as defined in existing law (R.S. 3:313), and that are receiving an annual CSBG allocation of less than $80,001 to petition La. Works for a downward exception to the minimum number of board members required.

New law further requires boards that meet this exception to make a written request to La. Works no later than 180 days prior to the desired effective date.

Existing law provides for the makeup of the membership of the board.

New law makes technical corrections and retains existing law.

Existing law requires the secretary of La. Works to appoint an apprenticeship council, composed of three representatives, each from employer and employee organizations respectively and two representatives of the general public.

Existing law requires the three employer representatives to be selected from lists supplied by employer organizations that are participating in bona fide apprenticeship programs.

Existing law provides that the three employee representatives may be representatives of labor organizations who have been nominated by state labor federations.

Existing law requires each member to be appointed for a term of three years.

New law retains existing law.

New law allows each member to appoint a designee to serve in his stead.

New law requires each member who desires to have a designee to provide written notice to the secretary of La. Works for approval. New law further requires the written notice to name the individual who will be the official designee until the member or the secretary revokes the designation.

New law allows designees to participate and vote in council meetings.

Existing law allows reimbursement for transportation and compensation to each member of the council for each day spent in attendance at meetings of the apprenticeship council.

New law retains existing law.

Existing law requires an apprenticeship program to be registered in any trade or group of trades in accordance with state and federal law. Existing law provides for the duties and responsibilities of the apprenticeship program.

New law changes references of the word trade to occupation. New law otherwise retains existing law.

Existing law allows the director of apprenticeship, upon complaint of the statutorily requisite parties, to investigate if there has been a violation of the terms of an apprentice agreement. Existing law further clarifies the director shall only investigate programs for the purpose of ensuring compliance and after being given proper notice of such investigation.

New law makes technical corrections and otherwise retains existing law.

Prior law stipulated that all hearings, investigations, and determinations were to be made under authority of reasonable rules and procedures prescribed by the apprenticeship council and subject to the approval of the secretary of La. Works.

New law instead stipulates that the hearings, investigations, and determinations be made under authority of reasonable rules and procedures prescribed by the secretary with advice from the apprenticeship council.

Existing law requires the assistant secretary of the office of workers' compensation administration (OWCA), upon application of any party, to order an additional medical opinion regarding an examination of the employee when there is any dispute regarding the condition of the employee.

Existing law further requires the examination to be conducted by a medical practitioner selected and appointed by the assistant secretary.

New law clarifies and specifies the dispute as one that arises between two physicians. New law otherwise retains existing law.

Existing law requires the medical examiner to report his conclusions from the examination to the assistant secretary of OWCA and to the relevant parties. Existing law also states that the medical examiner's report shall be prima facie evidence of the facts stated in any subsequent proceedings.

New law makes technical corrections and otherwise retains existing law.

Existing law provides for insurance cost containment under workers' compensation.

Existing law requires OWCA to develop and implement informational cost containment meetings for all employers on the target list compiled pursuant to existing law (R.S. 23:1177).

Prior law required OWCA to inform all eligible employers on the target list, as provided in existing law (R.S. 23:1177), of the dates and locations of cost containment meetings.

New law instead requires OWCA to inform all eligible employers on the target list of the opportunity to schedule cost containment meetings.

Prior law required that the procedures to establish proof of attendance of a cost containment meeting by designated representatives of eligible employers be established by rule by OWCA.

New law repeals prior law.

Existing law provides that a claim for benefits, the controversion of entitlement to benefits, or other relief pursuant to existing law shall be initiated by the filing of the appropriate form with OWCA.

New law makes a technical correction and otherwise retains existing law.

Existing law provides that mailing, facsimile transmission, or electronic transmission of the form and payment of the filing fee.

New law retains existing law.

Prior law required the filing fee to be filed within five days of any mailing or transmission that constitutes the initiation of a claim pursuant to existing law (R.S. 23:1209).

New law changes the time from five to seven days.

Existing law requires the La. Workers' Compensation Second Injury Board (the board) to be domiciled in Baton Rouge.

New law retains existing law.

Existing law requires the board to be composed of five members, or their designees, and that membership shall be made up of the secretary of state, the state treasurer, the commissioner of insurance, the secretary of Dept. of Children and Family Services (DCFS), and the assistant secretary of OWCA.

New law maintains the membership of the board, with the exception of the secretary of DCFS and changes that membership position to the secretary of La. Dept. of Health. New law otherwise retains existing law.

Existing law provides that if the secretary of La. Works finds that any employer has failed to file any payroll report or has filed an incorrect or insufficient report, the secretary may make an estimate of the information required from the employer on the basis of the best evidence reasonably available to him at the time.

New law retains existing law.

Prior law required the secretary to provide notice of the aforementioned finding to the employer's last known address by registered mail.

New law instead requires notification to be sent by mail or electronic delivery to the last known address or electronic contact information on record.

Existing law provides that, unless the employer files the report or a corrected or sufficient report no later than 20 days after the mailing of the notice, the secretary may compute the employer's rate of contribution on the basis of the estimates.

Existing law further provides that the rate so determined shall be subject to increase or decrease on the basis of subsequently ascertained information.

New law amends existing law by changing the reference of mailing the notice to the date of notification. New law otherwise retains existing law.

Existing law requires the secretary to, no later than 90 days after the close of each calendar quarter, render a statement to each employer of benefits paid to each individual and charged to his experience-rating record.

New law retains existing law.

Existing law provides that benefit charges are conclusive and binding upon the employer, unless he filed an application to review the charges and set forth his reasons.

New law retains existing law.

Prior law required the employer to file an appeal for review within 30 days after the mailing of the notice to his last known address.

New law changes the notification requirements to instead require notification to be delivered to the employer's last known address or sent to his electronic contact information on record.

Existing law requires the secretary of La. Works to notify each employer, no later than Dec. 31st of each year, of his rate of contribution for the forthcoming calendar year as determined for any relevant experience-rating year.

New law retains existing law.

Existing law provides that this determination shall be conclusive and binding upon an employer unless the employer files an application for review and redetermination setting forth his reasons.

New law retains existing law.

Prior law required the employer to file the application within 30 days after receiving notification via mail to his last known address.

New law instead requires the employer to file the application within 30 days after he receives notification, by delivery, to his last known address or his electronic contact information on record.

Existing law provides that if the administrator grants the review, the employer shall be promptly notified and granted an opportunity for a fair hearing. However, existing law prohibits certain matters, which the employer was previously notified about and had an opportunity but failed to take advantage of, from being brought in the proceeding.

New law retains existing law.

Existing law states that the employer shall be promptly notified of the secretary's action, which shall be considered final, unless a petition for judicial review was filed in the district court of the employer's domicile.

New law retains existing law.

Prior law required notification to be mailed to the employer's last known address within 30 days.

New law instead requires notification to be delivered to the employer's last known address or his electronic contact information on record.

Existing law stipulates that the secretary's findings in the proceedings are presumed prima facie correct, if supported by substantial and competent evidence. Existing law also stipulates that the proceedings shall be heard in a summary manner and take precedence over all other civil cases, except cases stipulated in existing law.

New law retains existing law.

Prior law allowed an employer to contribute any amount to his experience-rating account within 30 days after the mailing to his last known address.

New law changes the notice requirement from mailing notification to the employer's last known address to simply requiring delivery of notification or sending notification to his electronic contact information on record.

Existing law stipulates the weekly benefit amount for unemployment benefits an eligible individual shall be paid.

New law retains existing law.

Prior law stated that the amount should be an amount of 50% of his current weekly benefit amount, or $50, whichever is lower.

New law instead provides that the amount should be an amount of 50% of his current weekly benefit amount.

Prior law provided that the maximum number of weekly benefits that a claimant could be eligible for in a benefit year would depend on the average of the three most recently published state seasonally adjusted unemployment rates preceding the month in which the claimant files his first claim for benefits.

New law instead provides that the maximum number of weekly benefits that a claimant may be eligible for in a benefit year shall be determined semi-annually, based on the average of the three most recently published state seasonally adjusted unemployment rates available prior to Jan. 1st and July 1st of each calendar year.

New law clarifies that a claimant filing an initial claim for benefits between Jan. 1st and June 30th shall be subject to the maximum duration determined based on the average unemployment rate preceding Jan. 1st.

New law further clarifies that a claimant filing an initial claim between July 1st and Dec. 31st shall be subject to the maximum duration determined based on the average unemployment rate preceding July 1st.

Prior law stated that an agent designated by the secretary shall take a claim for unemployment benefits.

New law repeals prior law.

Existing law provides that a determination of eligibility made on the basis of base period wage credits shall be made promptly and shall include a statement as to whether benefits are payable, the week with respect to which benefits shall commence, the weekly benefit amount payable, and the maximum duration of benefits.

New law retains existing law.

Prior law provided that, within 30 days of the date the claim was filed, notice of this monetary determination shall be delivered to the claimant and, if the claimant is eligible, to the last employer or employing unit and to all of the base period employers or mailed to their last known address.

New law instead provides that, within 30 days of the date the claim was filed, notice of this monetary determination shall be mailed or electronically delivered to the claimant and, if the claimant is eligible, to the last employer or employing unit and to all of the base period employers or mailed to their last known address or electronic contact information on record.

New law provides that for any determination that begins a statutory period for appeal, protest, or other action, delivery by mail or electronic transmission shall satisfy the notice requirements.

New law provides that delivery, whether mailed or electronically transmitted, shall be deemed complete on the date shown on the notice. New law further provides that delivery to the last known address or electronic contact information on record shall constitute sufficient notice.

Existing law provides the procedure for reconsideration of a nonmonetary determination.

New law retains existing law.

New law provides that if an original determination is pending at the time a redetermination is issued, the appeal, unless withdrawn, shall be treated as an appeal from the redetermination.

Existing law requires the secretary to reconsider a final determination or decision to pay benefits if it is decided that the determination or decision was improper based upon certain factors specified in existing law.

New law retains existing law.

New law states that legal holidays and days on which La. Works is closed shall serve to extend the delay periods.

Existing law provides the procedure for determinations concerning labor dispute cases.

New law retains existing law.

Existing law provides the procedure for appeals to an appeal referee.

Prior law allowed a claimant or any other relevant party to file an appeal from the determination with an appeal referee either by mailing the appeal, as evidenced by the postmark date, or by delivering it.

New law instead allows a claimant or any other relevant party entitled to the notice to file an appeal with an appeal referee by mail or other methods prescribed by La Works after receiving proper notification. New law further provides that legal holidays and days on which the department is closed shall serve to extend the delay periods.

New law stipulates the duties of the appeal referee and provides for the notification requirements of the appeal.

Existing law creates a board of review for appeal referees.

Existing law allows the board of review, on its own motion, to initiate a review of a decision of an appeal referee.

New law retains existing law.

Prior law required the aforementioned review to occur within 15 days after the date of notification or the date the decision was mailed.

New law instead requires the review to occur within 15 days after receiving notification.

Prior law provided that the board may allow any relevant parties to appeal the decision and required such appeal to be filed within 15 days after receiving notification or the mailing of a decision of an appeal referee.

New law instead provides that the board may allow any relevant parties to appeal the decision by mail or any other method prescribed by La. Works as long as such appeal is filed within 15 days after receiving notification of an appeal referee.

Existing law provides the procedural process the board shall follow after making its decision.

New law retains existing law and adds how notification shall be delivered to the relevant parties.

Prior law stated that the board's decision shall be final unless, within 15 days after the notice is mailed or delivered to the party's last known address, a proceeding for judicial review is initiated.

New law instead provides that the board's decision shall be final unless, within 15 days after receipt of notification of the board's decision is mailed to the party's last known address or electronic contact information on record, a proceeding for judicial review is initiated.

Existing law provides the process for appealing the board's decision.

New law retains existing law.

Existing law enforces a civil penalty on an individual who was disqualified for fraudulently overpaid unemployment benefits.

New law retains existing law.

Prior law provided that the civil penalty shall be in the amount of $20 or 25%, whichever is greater, of the total overpayment amount.

New law instead changes the penalty to be 50% of the total overpayment amount.

Existing law provides for the deposit of monetary funds procured from overpayment amounts to the proper statutorily mandated federal entities and state accounts.

New law retains existing law.

Existing law allows La. Works to send, by certified mail or return receipt requested, a notice of overpayment delinquency to an obligor to inform him of the department's intention to submit his name to the appropriate licensing authority for the purpose of seeking suspension of his license.

New law removes the requirement that such notice may be sent by certified mail or return receipt request and otherwise retains existing law.

Existing law provides that if the obligor has multiple licenses, then the department may issue a single notice of its intention to submit multiple suspensions.

New law retains existing law.

Existing law provides that La. Works shall be composed of the executive office of the secretary, the office of management and finance, the office of workforce development, the office of unemployment insurance administration, the office of workers' compensation administration, and any other offices as shall be created by law.

New law removes the executive office of the secretary as one of the offices to be maintained inside La. Works. New law otherwise existing law.

Prior law provided that the La. Workforce Investment Council (the council), as provided in existing law (R.S. 23:2042 et seq.), shall be placed within the executive office of the secretary.

New law instead requires the council to be placed within the office of management and finance under the purview of the secretary.

Prior law provided for the creation and establishment of the La. State Board of Boiler Inspector Examiners, which was placed inside La. Works.

New law repeals prior law.

Prior law provided that the board should consist of four members, one of whom would have been the chief inspector of the boiler inspection division, La Works, and the other three who would have been special inspectors holding commissions as inspectors of steam boilers issued by the La. Works.

New law repeals prior law.

Prior law required all members of the board of boiler inspector examiners, except the chief inspector, to be appointed by the secretary and to serve at his pleasure, without compensation.

New law repeals prior law.

Prior law required the board of boiler inspector examiners to conduct written examinations for all persons desiring to secure certificates of competency and commissions as boiler inspectors in this state. Prior law required the examinations to be held at times and places as may be designated by the board, and designed to test the applicant's knowledge of the construction, installation, maintenance, and repair of steam boilers and their appurtenances.

New law repeals prior law.

Prior law required examinations to be given by the board to persons to be employed by any company authorized to insure boilers against explosions in this state or inspectors of steam boilers employed by the boiler inspection division of La. Works. Prior law required applicants to have no less than three years of experience in the design, construction, or operation of high pressure boilers as a mechanical engineer, steam engineer, boilermaker, or boiler inspector.

New law repeals prior law.

Prior law exempted the following individuals from taking the examination:

(1) An individual who held certificates of competency as inspectors of steam boilers for states or cities having a standard of examination substantially equal to that of this state.

(2) An individual who held certificates as inspectors of steam boilers from the National Board of Boiler and Pressure Vessel Inspectors.

New law repeals prior law.

Prior law required any of the following persons to be certified by the secretary of La. Works.

(1) A person who had successfully passed the examination provided in prior law (R.S. 23:44 and 45).

(2) A person who had held a certificate of competency as an inspector of boilers for a state or a city that had a standard of examination substantially equal to that of this state.

(3) A person who had received a certificate as an inspector of boilers from the National Board of Boiler and Pressure Vessel Inspectors.

New law repeals prior law.

Prior law provided that a fee of $40 shall be charged by the secretary for the issuance of the initial certificate of competency and commission along with an identification card denoting that the person whose name appeared on the certificate had been issued a certificate and is therefore a certified boiler inspector.

New law repeals prior law.

Prior law provided that a fee of $20 shall be charged each year for renewal of the identification card.

Prior law required the fees collected to be used to cover the cost of the printing, issuing, and handling of all certificates of competency and commission and identification cards and that the fees be retained and disbursed by the secretary.

New law repeals prior law.

Prior law prohibited a person from performing or attempting to perform the work or duties of a boiler inspector, unless he possessed a certificate of competency and commission and a valid identification card signifying possession.

New law repeals prior law.

Prior law mandated a fine of $100 and no more than $250, or imprisonment for not less than 30 days and no more than 90 days, for anyone who violated the provisions of prior law.

New law repeals prior law.

Prior law stated that any eligible employer who was given notice of a cost containment meeting and failed to attend shall be fined an amount equaling 2% of the La. workers' compensation premium for the succeeding policy year. Prior law further stated that the fine would be payable to the secretary of La. Works and remitted to the state treasurer for deposit in the Office of Workers' Compensation Administrative Fund.

New law repeals prior law.

Prior law required the workers' compensation judge, prior to the workers' compensation judge adjudicating an injured employee to be permanently and totally disabled, to determine whether there was a reasonable probability that, with appropriate training or education, the injured employee could be rehabilitated to the extent that the employee could achieve suitable gainful employment and whether it was in the best interest of the individual to undertake the training or education.

New law repeals prior law.

Prior law required that, upon requalification of benefits, the claimant's benefits, as computed pursuant to the provisions of existing law (R.S. 23:1592 and R.S. 23:1595), be discounted by 50% for the remainder of his benefit year.

New law repeals prior law.

(Amends R.S. 23:4, 61, 62, 63, 64.1(A)(intro. para.) and (2) and (B)(intro. para.) and (1), 76(C)(4)(f) and (i), 382(A) and (B), 384(A), 385(B), 390(C), 1123, 1178(A)(intro. para.), (B), and (E), 1310.3(A), 1372, 1378(A)(2)(c) and (E), 1538(A)(1), 1541(A), (E), and (F)(1), 1541.1(A) and (B), 1593, 1595(B)(1) and (C), 1599, 1601(8)(a) and (b), 1624, 1625, 1626(B) and (C), 1627, 1629(A), 1630, 1714(A), 1749.2(A), 2051(A) and R.S. 36:301(C)(1); Adds R.S. 23:1.1; Repeals R.S. 23:41-49, 1178(D), 1226(C)(2), and 1601(10)(b))