

# FISCAL NOTE

May 9, 2022

<b>Bill No:</b>	HB 129	<b>Printer's No:</b>	2718	<b>Sponsor:</b>	Cox
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### COST / (SAVINGS)

<b>Fund (s)</b>	<b>2021-22</b>	<b>2022-23</b>
UC Administration Fund	See Fiscal Impact	See Fiscal Impact

**SUMMARY:** HB 129 amends the Unemployment Compensation Law to require the UC Board of Review (Board) to revise its rules to modernize appeal hearings.

**ANALYSIS:** HB 129 amends the Unemployment Compensation Law to require the board to modernize its rules and procedures regarding appeal hearings to transition hearings to telephone, video conference or other electronic means unless the referee determines that good cause exists to hold an in-person hearing or a party shows good cause in requesting an in-person hearing.

Requests for an in-person hearing must be made in writing within 10 days of the date of the hearing notice, which shall include the procedure to request an in-person hearing.

Good cause shall include a party, witness or other participant of the hearing has a physical, mental or intellectual disability or requires an interpreter, or one party offers compelling evidence that a telephone hearing would create a significant advantage for an opposing party.

HB 129 was amended to allow any party to request an in person hearing for any reason and allow one party or witness to still appear electronically even if the rest are in person.

This legislation would take effect in 60 days.

**FISCAL IMPACT:** HB 129 would have a fiscal impact of \$595,914.75 for a one-time expense in the Fiscal Year 2021-22 for equipment and installation and an annual cost of \$163,990.24 for mailing hearing materials.

The funding stream for these additional costs is the Administration of Unemployment Compensation (Federal, EA) Fund. There is no guarantee that such federal funds will be available to fund this conversion.