

## STATEMENT OF PURPOSE

RS31824 / H0053

This legislation updates the statute applied to claimants who commit unemployment insurance fraud. It (1) defines willful and knowingly making a false statement; (2) creates a distinction between misdemeanor and felony fraud; (3) creates a crime for unemployment insurance identity theft; and (4) provides for a stiffer administrative penalty for repeat offenders of unemployment insurance fraud.

## FISCAL NOTE

This legislation has no impact on the general fund. The savings to the unemployment insurance trust fund is a result of a more significant denial period, resulting in claimants being ineligible for benefits in future years. In FY2026, there will be a savings of \$152,000 due to less benefits paid to claimants with multiple frauds. In future years, the savings will decrease to \$112,000 because previously denied claimants will remain ineligible.

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**DISCLAIMER:** This statement of purpose and fiscal note are a mere attachment to this bill and prepared by a proponent of the bill. It is neither intended as an expression of legislative intent nor intended for any use outside of the legislative process, including judicial review (Joint Rule 18).