As Reported by the House Technology and Innovation Committee

134th General Assembly

Regular Session 2021-2022

Sub. S. B. No. 302

Senators Hackett, Reineke

Cosponsors: Senators Cirino, Lang, Schaffer, Wilson, Antonio, Blessing, Brenner, Dolan, Gavarone, Hottinger, Johnson, Kunze, Manning, McColley, Peterson, Roegner, Romanchuk, Schuring, Thomas Representative Lightbody

A BILL

Го	amend sections 4141.26, 4141.28, 4141.281,	1
	4507.53, 5120.212, 5703.21, 5747.065, and	2
	5747.18 and to enact sections 4141.163,	3
	4141.287, 4141.288, 4141.302, 4141.34, and	4
	4141.60 of the Revised Code and to amend Section	5
	8 of S.B. 18 of the 134th General Assembly, as	6
	subsequently amended, to make changes to the	7
	Unemployment Compensation Law.	8

BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF OHIO:

Section 1. That sections 4141.26, 4141.28, 4141.281,	9
4507.53, 5120.212, 5703.21, 5747.065, and 5747.18 be amended and	10
sections 4141.163, 4141.287, 4141.288, 4141.302, 4141.34, and	11
4141.60 of the Revised Code be enacted to read as follows:	12
Sec. 4141.163. (A) For any federal program administered by	13
the director of job and family services in a manner similar to	14
this chapter that provides money payments for loss of	15
remuneration for services performed under any contract of hire	16
that is not employment as defined in section 4141 01 of the	1 7

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the director, by the first day of September following the

computation date, with the wage information for all past periods

necessary for the computation of the contribution rate.

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- (B) If an employer has not timely furnished the necessary wage information as required by division (A) of this section, the employer's contribution rate for such contribution period shall not be computed as provided in section 4141.25 of the Revised Code, but instead the employer shall be assigned a contribution rate equal to one hundred twenty-five per cent of the maximum rate provided in that section, with the following exceptions:
- (1) If the employer files the necessary wage information by the thirty-first day of December of the year immediately preceding the contribution period for which the rate is to be effective, the employer's rate shall be computed as provided in division (A) of section 4141.25 of the Revised Code.
- (2) The director shall revise the contribution rate of an employer who has not timely furnished the necessary wage information as required by division (A) of this section, who has been assigned a contribution rate pursuant to division (B) of this section, and who does not meet the requirements of division (B) (1) of this section, if the employer furnishes the necessary wage information to the director within eighteen months following the thirty-first day of December of the year immediately preceding the contribution period for which the rate is to be effective. The revised rate under division (B) (2) of this section shall be equal to one hundred twenty per cent of the contribution rate that would have resulted if the employer had timely furnished the necessary wage information under division (A) of this section.

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The director shall deny an employer's request for a	78
revision of the employer's rate as provided in division (B)(2)	79
of this section if the director finds that the employer's	80
failure to timely file the necessary wage information was due to	81
an attempt to evade payment.	82

The director shall round the contribution rates the director determines under division (B) of this section to the nearest tenth of one per cent.

- (C) If, as a result of the computation pursuant to

 division (B) of this section, the employer's account shows a

 negative balance in excess of the applicable limitations, in

 that computation, the excess above applicable limitations shall

 not be transferred from the account as provided in division (A)

 (2) of section 4141.24 of the Revised Code.
- (D) The rate determined pursuant to this section and 92 section 4141.25 of the Revised Code shall become binding upon 93 the employer unless: 94
- (1) The employer makes a voluntary contribution as 95 provided in division (B) of section 4141.24 of the Revised Code, 96 whereupon the director shall issue the employer a revised 97 contribution rate notice if the contribution changes the 98 employer's rate; or 99
- (2) Within thirty days after the mailing of notice of the employer's rate or a revision of it to the employer's last known 101 address or, in the absence of mailing of such notice, within 102 thirty days after the delivery of such notice, the employer 103 files an application with the director for reconsideration of 104 the director's determination of such rate setting forth reasons 105 for such request. The director shall promptly examine the 106

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application for reconsideration and shall notify the employer of	107
the director's reconsidered decision, which shall become final	108
unless, within thirty days after the mailing of such notice by	109
certified mail, return receipt requested, the employer files an	110
application for review of such decision with the unemployment	111
compensation review commission. The commission shall promptly	112
examine the application for review of the director's decision	113
and shall grant such employer an opportunity for a fair hearing.	114
The proceeding at the hearing before the commission shall be	115
recorded in the means and manner prescribed by the commission.	116
For the purposes of this division, the review is considered	117
timely filed when it has been received as provided in division	118
(D)(1) of section 4141.281 of the Revised Code. The appeal of an	119
appealing party who fails to appear at a hearing under this	120
division shall be dismissed in accordance with division (D) of	121
section 4141.281 of the Revised Code.	122

The employer and the director shall be promptly notified 123 of the commission's decision, which shall become final unless, 124 within thirty days after the mailing of notice of it to the 125 employer's last known address by certified mail, return receipt 126 requested, or, in the absence of mailing, within thirty days 127 after delivery of such notice, an appeal is taken by the 128 employer or the director to the court of common pleas of 129 Franklin county. Such appeal shall be taken by the employer or 130 the director by filing a notice of appeal with the clerk of such 131 court and with the commission. Such notice of appeal shall set 132 forth the decision appealed and the errors in it complained of. 133 Proof of the filing of such notice with the commission shall be 134 filed with the clerk of such court. 135

The commission, upon written demand filed by the appellant and within thirty days after the filing of such demand, shall

file with the clerk a certified transcript of the record of the	138
proceedings before the commission pertaining to the	139
determination or order complained of, and the appeal shall be	140
heard upon such record certified to the commission. In such	141
appeal, no additional evidence shall be received by the court,	142
but the court may order additional evidence to be taken before	143
the commission, and the commission, after hearing such	144
additional evidence, shall certify such additional evidence to	145
the court or it may modify its determination and file such	146
modified determination, together with the transcript of the	147
additional record, with the court. After an appeal has been	148
filed in the court, the commission, by petition, may be made a	149
party to such appeal. Such appeal shall be given precedence over	150
other civil cases. The court may affirm the determination or	151
order complained of in the appeal if it finds, upon	152
consideration of the entire record, that the determination or	153
order is supported by reliable, probative, and substantial	154
evidence and is in accordance with law. In the absence of such a	155
finding, it may reverse, vacate, or modify the determination or	156
order or make such other ruling as is supported by reliable,	157
probative, and substantial evidence and is in accordance with	158
law. The judgment of the court shall be final and conclusive	159
unless reversed, vacated, or modified on appeal. An appeal may	160
be taken from the decision of the court of common pleas of	161
Franklin county.	162

(E) The appeal provisions of division (D) of this section 163
apply to all other determinations and orders of the director 164
affecting the liability of an employer to pay contributions or 165
the amount of such contributions, determinations respecting 166
application for refunds of contributions, determinations 167
respecting applications for classification of employment as 168

seasonal under section 4141.33 of the Revised Code, and

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exceptions to charges of benefits to an employer's account as 170 provided in division (D) of section 4141.24 of the Revised Code. 171 (F) The validity of any general order or rule of the 172 director adopted pursuant to this chapter or of any final order 173 or action of the unemployment compensation review commission 174 respecting any such general order or rule may be determined by 175 the court of common pleas of Franklin county, and such general 176 order, rule, or action may be sustained or set aside by the 177 court on an appeal to it which may be taken by any person 178 affected by the order, rule, or action in the manner provided by 179 law. Such appeal to the court of common pleas of Franklin county 180 shall be filed within thirty days after the date such general 181 order, rule, or action was publicly released by the director or 182 the commission. Either party to such action may appeal from the 183 court of common pleas of Franklin county as in ordinary civil 184 cases. 185 (G) Notwithstanding any determination made in pursuance of 186 sections 4141.23 to 4141.26 of the Revised Code, no individual 187 who files a claim for benefits shall be denied the right to a 188

(H) (1) Notwithstanding division (D) of this section, if the director finds that an omission or error in the director's records or employer reporting caused the director to issue an erroneous determination or order affecting contribution rates, the liability of an employer to pay contributions or the amount of such contributions, determinations respecting applications for refunds of contributions, determinations respecting

fair hearing as provided in section 4141.281 of the Revised

it.

Code, or the right to have a claim determined on the merits of

When an unemployed individual files an application for	228
determination of benefit rights, the director shall furnish the	229
individual with an explanation of the individual's appeal	230
rights. The explanation shall describe clearly the different	231
levels of appeal and explain where and when each appeal must be	232
filed.	233
(B) APPLICATION FOR DETERMINATION OF BENEFIT RIGHTS	234
In filing an application, an individual shall furnish the	235
director with the name and address of the individual's most	236
recent separating employer and the individual's statement of the	237
reason for separation from the employer. The director shall	238
promptly notify the individual's most recent separating employer	239
of the filing and request the reason for the individual's	240
unemployment, unless that notice is not necessary under	241
conditions the director establishes by rule. The director may	242
request from the individual or any employer information	243
necessary for the determination of the individual's right to	244
benefits. The employer shall provide the information requested	245
within ten working days after the request is sent. If an	246
employer fails to provide requested information within ten	247
working days, the director shall provide to the tax commissioner	248
the individual's and employer's names, addresses, taxpayer	249
identification numbers if available, and any additional	250
information required by the tax commissioner. The tax	251
commissioner shall confirm to the director whether the	252
individual was included on the most recent annual return filed	253
by the employer pursuant to division (F) of section 5747.07 of	254
the Revised Code. The tax commissioner shall inform the director	255
if the tax commissioner is unable to provide the requested	256
confirmation. If necessary to ensure prompt determination and	257

payment of benefits, the director shall base the determination

on the information that is available.

An individual filing an application for determination of benefit rights shall disclose, at the time of filing, whether or not the individual owes child support obligations.

(C) MASS LAYOFFS

An employer who lays off or separates within any seven-day period fifty or more individuals because of lack of work shall furnish notice to the director of the dates of layoff or separation and the approximate number of individuals being laid off or separated. The notice shall be furnished at least three working days prior to the date of the first day of such layoff or separation. In addition, at the time of the layoff or separation the employer shall furnish to the individual and to the director information necessary to determine the individual's eligibility for unemployment compensation.

(D) DETERMINATION OF BENEFIT RIGHTS

The director shall promptly examine any application for determination of benefit rights. On the basis of the information available to the director under this chapter, the director shall determine whether or not the application is valid, and if valid, the date on which the benefit year shall commence and the weekly benefit amount. The director shall promptly notify the applicant, employers in the applicant's base period, and any other interested parties of the determination and the reasons for it. In addition, the determination issued to the claimant shall include the total amount of benefits payable. The determination issued to each chargeable base period employer shall include the total amount of benefits that may be charged to the employer's account.

(E) CLAIM FOR BENEFITS

The director shall examine the first claim and any additional claim for benefits. On the basis of the information available, the director shall determine whether the claimant's most recent separation and, to the extent necessary, prior separations from work, allow the claimant to qualify for benefits. Written notice of the determination granting or denying benefits shall be sent to the claimant, the most recent separating employer, and any other employer involved in the determination, except that written notice is not required to be sent to the claimant if the reason for separation is lack of work and the claim is allowed.

If the director identifies an eligibility issue, the director shall immediately send notice to the claimant of the issue identified, specify the week or weeks involved, and identify what the claimant must do to address the issue or who the claimant may contact for more information. The claimant has a minimum of five business days after the notice is sent to respond to the information included in the notice, and after the time allowed as determined by the director, the director shall make a determination. The claimant's response may include a request for a fact-finding interview when the eligibility issue is raised by an informant or source other than the claimant, or when the eligibility issue, if determined adversely, disqualifies the claimant for the duration of the claimant's period of unemployment.

When the determination of a continued claim for benefits results in a disallowed claim, the director shall notify the claimant of the disallowance and the reasons for it.

(F) ELIGIBILITY NOTICE

Any base period or subsequent employer of a claimant who	318
has knowledge of specific facts affecting the claimant's right	319
to receive benefits for any week may notify the director in	320
writing of those facts. The director shall prescribe a form for	321
such eligibility notice, but failure to use the form shall not	322
preclude the director's examination of any notice.	323

To be considered valid, an eligibility notice must:

contain in writing, a statement that identifies either a source

who has firsthand knowledge of the information or an informant

who can identify the source; provide specific and detailed

information that may potentially disqualify the claimant;

provide the name and address of the source or the informant; and

appear to the director to be reliable and credible.

An eligibility notice is timely filed if received or postmarked prior to or within forty-five calendar days after the end of the week with respect to which a claim for benefits is filed by the claimant. An employer who timely files a valid eligibility notice shall be an interested party to the claim for benefits which is the subject of the notice.

The director shall consider the information contained in the eligibility notice, together with other available information. After giving the claimant notice and an opportunity to respond, the director shall make a determination and inform the notifying employer, the claimant, and other interested parties of the determination.

(G) CORRECTED DETERMINATION

If the director finds within the <u>fifty-two_two_hundred</u>

<u>eight_calendar weeks beginning with the Sunday of the week</u>

during which an application for benefit rights was filed or

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within the honefit was that a determination made by the	347
within the benefit year that a determination made by the	-
director was erroneous due to an error in an employer's report	348
or any typographical or clerical error in the director's	349
determination, or as shown by correct remuneration information	350
received by the director, the director shall issue a corrected	351
determination to all interested parties. The corrected	352
determination shall take precedence over and void the prior	353
determination of the director. The director shall not issue a	354
corrected determination when the commission or a court has	355
jurisdiction with respect to that determination.	356
(H) EFFECT OF COMMISSION DECISIONS	357
In making determinations, the director shall follow	358
decisions of the unemployment compensation review commission	359
which have become final with respect to claimants similarly	360
situated.	361
(I) PROMPT PAYMENTS	362
If benefits are allowed by the director, a hearing	363
officer, the commission, or a court, the director shall pay	364
benefits promptly, notwithstanding any further appeal, provided	365
that if benefits are denied on appeal, of which the parties have	366
notice and an opportunity to be heard, the director shall	367
withhold payment of benefits pending a decision on any further	368
appeal.	369
Sec. 4141.281.	370
APPEALS	371
(A) APPEAL FILED	372
Any party notified of a determination of benefit rights or	373
a claim for benefits determination may appeal within twenty-one	374

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commission. Hearings at the review level are conducted by 404 hearing officers appointed by the commission, by members of the 405 commission acting either individually or collectively, and by 406 members of the commission and hearing officers acting jointly. 407 In all hearings conducted at the review level, the commission 408 shall designate the hearing officer or officers who are to 409 conduct the hearing. When the term "hearing officer" is used in 410 reference to hearings conducted at the review level, the term 411 includes members of the commission. All decisions issued at the 412 review level are issued by the commission. 413

Provisions contained in the remainder of this paragraph 414 apply to hearings at both the hearing officer level and the 415 review level. The principles of due process in administrative 416 hearings shall be applied to all hearings conducted under the 417 authority of the commission. In conducting hearings, all hearing 418 officers shall control the conduct of the hearing, exclude 419 irrelevant or cumulative evidence, and give weight to the kind 420 of evidence on which reasonably prudent persons are accustomed 421 to rely in the conduct of serious affairs. Hearing officers have 422 an affirmative duty to question parties and witnesses in order 423 to ascertain the relevant facts and to fully and fairly develop 424 the record. Hearing officers are not bound by common law or 425 statutory rules of evidence or by technical or formal rules of 426 procedure. No person shall impose upon the claimant or the 427 employer any burden of proof as is required in a court of law. 428 The proceedings at hearings shall be recorded by mechanical 429 means or otherwise as may be prescribed by the commission. In 430 the absence of further proceedings, the record need not be 431 transcribed. After considering all of the evidence, a hearing 432 officer shall issue a written decision that sets forth the facts 433 as the hearing officer finds them to be, cites the applicable 434

law, and gives the reasoning for the decision.	435
(3) HEARING OFFICER LEVEL	436
When an appeal is transferred to the commission by the	437
director, the commission shall notify all interested parties of	438
the time and place of the hearing and assign the appeal for a	439
hearing by a hearing officer. The hearings shall be de novo,	440
except that the director's file pertaining to a case shall be	441
included in the record to be considered.	442
Following a hearing, the hearing officer shall affirm,	443
modify, or reverse the determination of the director in the	444
manner that appears just and proper. The hearing officer's	445
written decision shall be sent to all interested parties. The	446
decision shall state the right of an interested party to request	447
a review by the commission.	448
A request for review shall be filed within twenty-one days	449
after the decision was sent to the party, or within an extended	450
period as provided under division (D)(9) of this section. The	451
hearing officer's decision shall become final unless a request	452
for review is filed and allowed or the commission removes the	453
appeal to itself within twenty-one days after the hearing	454
officer's decision is sent.	455
(4) REVIEW LEVEL	456
At the review level, the commission may affirm, modify, or	457
reverse previous determinations by the director or at the	458
hearing officer level. At the review level, the commission may	459
affirm, modify, or reverse a hearing officer's decision or	460
remand the decision to the hearing officer level for further	461
hearing. The commission shall consider an appeal at the review	462
level under the following circumstances: when an appeal is	463

required to be heard initially at the review level under this chapter; when the commission on its own motion removes an appeal to itself within twenty-one days after the hearing officer's decision is sent; when the assigned hearing officer refers an appeal to the commission before the hearing officer's decision is sent; or when an interested party files a request for review with the commission within twenty-one days after the hearing officer's decision is sent.

(5) COMMISSION EXAMINATION

The commission shall consider a request for review by an interested party, including the reasons for the request. The commission may adopt rules prescribing the methods for requesting a review. The commission may allow or disallow the request for review. The disallowance of a request for review constitutes a final decision by the commission.

(6) REVIEW PROCEDURE

If the commission allows a request for review, the commission shall notify all interested parties of that fact and provide a reasonable period of time, as the commission defines by rule, in which interested parties may file a response. After that period of time, the commission, based on the record before it, may do one of the following: affirm the decision of the hearing officer; provide for the appeal to be heard or reheard at the hearing officer or review level; provide for the appeal to be heard at the review level as a potential precedential decision; or provide for the decision to be rewritten without further hearing at the review level. When a further hearing is provided or the decision is rewritten, the commission may affirm, modify, or reverse the previous decision.

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If a member of the commission is unable or unavailable to	493
consider an appeal allowed by the commission, the other members	494
of the commission may appoint a hearing officer as a temporary	495
commissioner to fulfill the unable or unavailable commissioner's	496
duties with respect to the appeal. The members of the commission	497
may not appoint the hearing officer who decided the appeal at	498
the hearing officer level.	499
(7) NOTICES	500
The commission shall send written notice to all interested	501
parties when it orders an appeal to be heard or reheard. The	502
notice shall include the reasons for the hearing or rehearing.	503
(8) PRECEDENTIAL	504
An appeal the commission identifies as potentially	505
precedential shall be heard at the review level. In the notice	506
for that type of hearing, the commission shall notify the	507
director, all interested parties, and any other parties, as the	508
commission determines appropriate, that the appeal is designated	509
as potentially precedential. After the hearing, parties shall be	510
given the opportunity to submit briefs on the issue or issues	511
involved. The commission may designate a decision as	512
precedential after issuing the decision or at any point in the	513
appeal process, even if the commission does not initially	514
identify the appeal as potentially precedential.	515
(9) MASS APPEALS	516
When the commission determines that it has five appeals	517
pending that have common facts or common issues, the commission	518

may transfer the appeals to the review level on its own motion

to be heard as a mass appeal, including appeals from claimants

separated due to a labor dispute, on the condition that there

are fewer than twenty-five claimants involved.

To facilitate a mass hearing, the commission may allow an authorized agent to accept notice of hearing on behalf of claimants. An authorized agent may waive this notice of hearing and also the sending of decisions to individual claimants represented by the agent.

(D) SPECIAL PROVISIONS

(1) TIMELINESS OF APPEALS

The date of the mailing provided by the director or the commission is sufficient evidence upon which to conclude that a determination, redetermination, or decision was sent to the party on that date. Appeals may be filed with the director, commission, with an employee of another state or federal agency charged with the duty of accepting claims, or with the unemployment insurance commission of Canada. Any timely written notice by an interested party indicating a desire to appeal shall be accepted.

The director, commission, or authorized agent must receive the appeal within the specified appeal period in order for the appeal to be deemed timely filed, except that: if the United States postal service is used as the means of delivery, the enclosing envelope must have a postmark date or postal meter postmark that is on or before the last day of the specified appeal period; and where the postmark is illegible or missing, the appeal is timely filed if received not later than the end of the fifth calendar day following the last day of the specified appeal period.

The director and the commission may adopt rules pertaining to alternate methods of filing appeals under this section.

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Interested parties may waive, in writing, a hearing at either the hearing officer or review level. If the parties waive a hearing, the hearing officer shall issue a decision based on the evidence of record.

(3) TELEPHONE HEARINGS

Hearing officers may conduct hearings at either the hearing officer or review level in person or by telephone. The commission shall adopt rules that designate the circumstances under which hearing officers may conduct a hearing by telephone or grant a party to the hearing the opportunity to object to a hearing by telephone. An interested party whose hearing would be by telephone may elect to have an in-person hearing, provided that the party agrees to have the hearing at the time and place the commission determines pursuant to rule.

(4) EVENING HEARINGS

Where a party requests that a hearing Unless the 567 commission grants a request for an evening telephone hearing, 568 hearing officers shall conduct hearings at either the hearing 569 officer or and review level be scheduled in the evening because 570 the during normal business hours. An interested party who is 571 regularly employed during the day, the commission shall schedule 572 the throughout those hours may request to have a hearing by 573 telephone during hours that the party is not employed the 574 evening. The commission shall grant or deny a request for an 575 evening telephone hearing. If a conflict concerning a request 576 for an evening hearing and an in-person hearing arises, the 577 commission shall schedule the hearing by telephone during 578 579 evening hours.

(5) NO APPEARANCE -- APPELLANT

For hearings at either the hearing officer or review level, if the appealing party fails to appear at the hearing, the hearing officer shall dismiss the appeal. The commission shall vacate the dismissal upon a showing that written notice of the hearing was not sent to that party's last known address, or good cause for the appellant's failure to appear is shown to the commission within fourteen days after the hearing date.

If the commission finds that the appealing party's reason for failing to appear does not constitute good cause for failing to appear, the commission shall send written notice of that finding, and the appealing party may request a hearing to present testimony on the issue of good cause for failing to appear. The appealing party shall file a request for a hearing on the issue of good cause for failing to appear within ten days after the commission sends written notice indicating a finding of no good cause for failing to appear.

(6) NO APPEARANCE -- APPELLEE

For hearings at either the hearing officer or review level, if the appellee fails to appear at the hearing, the hearing officer shall proceed with the hearing and shall issue a decision based on the evidence of record. The commission shall vacate the decision upon a showing that written notice of the hearing was not sent to the appellee's last known address, or good cause for the appellee's failure to appear is shown to the commission within fourteen days after the hearing date.

(7) AGENT

Any appeal or request for review may be executed on behalf 607 of any party or any group of claimants by an agent. 608

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(8) COLLATERAL ESTOPPEL

No finding of fact or law, decision, or order of the 610 director, hearing officer, the commission, or a reviewing court 611 under this section or section 4141.28 of the Revised Code shall 612 be given collateral estoppel or res judicata effect in any 613 separate or subsequent judicial, administrative, or arbitration 614 proceeding, other than a proceeding arising under this chapter. 615

(9) EXTENSION OF APPEAL PERIODS

The time for filing an appeal or a request for review 617 under this section or a court appeal under section 4141.282 of 618 the Revised Code shall be extended in the manner described in 619 the following four sentences. When the last day of an appeal 620 period is a Saturday, Sunday, or legal holiday, the appeal 621 period is extended to the next work day after the Saturday, 622 Sunday, or legal holiday. When an interested party provides 623 certified medical evidence stating that the interested party's 624 physical condition or mental capacity prevented the interested 625 party from filing an appeal or request for review under this 626 section within the appropriate twenty-one-day period, the appeal 627 period is extended to twenty-one days after the end of the 628 physical or mental condition, and the appeal or request for 629 review is considered timely filed if filed within that extended 630 period. When an interested party provides evidence, which 631 evidence may consist of testimony from the interested party, 632 that is sufficient to establish that the party did not actually 633 receive the determination or decision within the applicable 634 appeal period under this section, and the director or the 635 commission finds that the interested party did not actually 636 receive the determination or decision within the applicable 637 appeal period, then the appeal period is extended to twenty-one 638

days after the interested party actually receives the	639
determination or decision. When an interested party provides	640
evidence, which evidence may consist of testimony from the	641
interested party, that is sufficient to establish that the party	642
did not actually receive a decision within the thirty-day appeal	643
period provided in section 4141.282 of the Revised Code, and a	644
court of common pleas finds that the interested party did not	645
actually receive the decision within that thirty-day appeal	646
period, then the appeal period is extended to thirty days after	647
the interested party actually receives the decision.	648
Sec. 4141.287. The director of job and family services	649
shall enter into a data matching agreement with the department	650
of rehabilitation and correction. The agreement shall require	651
the director of rehabilitation and correction to provide the	652
director of job and family services with a searchable list,	653
updated weekly, identifying all persons committed to the several	654
institutions governed by the department of rehabilitation and	655
correction.	656
In addition to other information available, the director	657
of job and family services shall check the list provided under	658
this section when determining whether an application for	659
determination of benefit rights or a claim for benefits is	660
valid.	661
Sec. 4141.288. The director of job and family services	662
shall enter into a data matching agreement with the director of	663
health under which the director of health shall allow the	664
director of job and family services to match death records	665
maintained in accordance with section 3705.02 of the Revised	666
Code.	667

The director of job and family services shall check the

690 process in a timely manner. Sec. 4141.60. (A) Beginning on the last day of February 691 that occurs after the effective date of this section, and 692 annually thereafter, the director of job and family services 693 shall prepare and submit a report to the persons listed in 694 division (B) of this section. The director shall include all of 695 the following information in the report with respect to the 696 calendar year preceding the date the report is submitted: 697

(1) The number of calls received from applicants for and

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maintained by the department of job and family services. The

director shall review all complaints received through this

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the photographic records for identity verification purposes:	727
(D) The department of job and family services for the	728
purpose of carrying out the department's functions under Chapter	729
4141. of the Revised Code.	730
Sec. 5120.212. Notwithstanding division (A) of section	731
5120.21 of the Revised Code, the department of rehabilitation	732
and correction shall share the records described in that	733
division with the director of job and family services to the	734
extent necessary to effectuate the data matching agreement	735
agreements required under section sections 4141.287 and 5101.041	736
of the Revised Code.	737
Sec. 5703.21. (A) Except as provided in divisions (B) and	738
(C) of this section, no agent of the department of taxation,	739
except in the agent's report to the department or when called on	740
to testify in any court or proceeding, shall divulge any	741
information acquired by the agent as to the transactions,	742
property, or business of any person while acting or claiming to	743
act under orders of the department. Whoever violates this	744
provision shall thereafter be disqualified from acting as an	745
officer or employee or in any other capacity under appointment	746
or employment of the department.	747
(B)(1) For purposes of an audit pursuant to section 117.15	748
of the Revised Code, or an audit of the department pursuant to	749
Chapter 117. of the Revised Code, or an audit, pursuant to that	750
chapter, the objective of which is to express an opinion on a	751
financial report or statement prepared or issued pursuant to	752
division (A)(7) or (9) of section 126.21 of the Revised Code,	753
the officers and employees of the auditor of state charged with	754
conducting the audit shall have access to and the right to	755
examine any state tax returns and state tax return information	756

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in the possession of the department to the extent that the access and examination are necessary for purposes of the audit. Any information acquired as the result of that access and examination shall not be divulged for any purpose other than as required for the audit or unless the officers and employees are required to testify in a court or proceeding under compulsion of legal process. Whoever violates this provision shall thereafter be disqualified from acting as an officer or employee or in any other capacity under appointment or employment of the auditor of state.

767 (2) For purposes of an internal audit pursuant to section 126.45 of the Revised Code, the officers and employees of the 768 office of internal audit in the office of budget and management 769 charged with directing the internal audit shall have access to 770 and the right to examine any state tax returns and state tax 771 return information in the possession of the department to the 772 extent that the access and examination are necessary for 773 purposes of the internal audit. Any information acquired as the 774 result of that access and examination shall not be divulged for 775 any purpose other than as required for the internal audit or 776 777 unless the officers and employees are required to testify in a court or proceeding under compulsion of legal process. Whoever 778 violates this provision shall thereafter be disqualified from 779 acting as an officer or employee or in any other capacity under 780 appointment or employment of the office of internal audit. 781

(3) As provided by section 6103(d)(2) of the Internal Revenue Code, any federal tax returns or federal tax information that the department has acquired from the internal revenue service, through federal and state statutory authority, may be disclosed to the auditor of state or the office of internal audit solely for purposes of an audit of the department.

(4) For purposes of Chapter 3739. of the Revised Code, an	788
agent of the department of taxation may share information with	789
the division of state fire marshal that the agent finds during	790
the course of an investigation.	791
(C) Division (A) of this section does not prohibit any of	792
the following:	793
(1) Divulging information contained in applications,	794
complaints, and related documents filed with the department	795
under section 5715.27 of the Revised Code or in applications	796
filed with the department under section 5715.39 of the Revised	797
Code;	798
(2) Providing information to the office of child support	799
within the department of job and family services pursuant to	800
section 3125.43 of the Revised Code;	801
(3) Disclosing to the motor vehicle repair board any	802
information in the possession of the department that is	803
necessary for the board to verify the existence of an	804
applicant's valid vendor's license and current state tax	805
identification number under section 4775.07 of the Revised Code;	806
(4) Providing information to the administrator of workers'	807
compensation pursuant to sections 4123.271 and 4123.591 of the	808
Revised Code;	809
(5) Providing to the attorney general information the	810
department obtains under division (J) of section 1346.01 of the	811
Revised Code;	812
(6) Permitting properly authorized officers, employees, or	813
agents of a municipal corporation from inspecting reports or	814
information pursuant to section 718.84 of the Revised Code or	815
rules adopted under section 5745 16 of the Revised Code:	816

(7) Providing information regarding the name, account	817
number, or business address of a holder of a vendor's license	818
issued pursuant to section 5739.17 of the Revised Code, a holder	819
of a direct payment permit issued pursuant to section 5739.031	820
of the Revised Code, or a seller having a use tax account	821
maintained pursuant to section 5741.17 of the Revised Code, or	822
information regarding the active or inactive status of a	823
vendor's license, direct payment permit, or seller's use tax	824
account;	825
(8) Releasing invoices or invoice information furnished	826
under section 4301.433 of the Revised Code pursuant to that	827
section;	828
(9) Providing to a county auditor notices or documents	829
concerning or affecting the taxable value of property in the	830
county auditor's county. Unless authorized by law to disclose	831
documents so provided, the county auditor shall not disclose	832
such documents;	833
(10) Providing to a county auditor sales or use tax return	834
or audit information under section 333.06 of the Revised Code;	835
(11) Subject to section 4301.441 of the Revised Code,	836
disclosing to the appropriate state agency information in the	837
possession of the department of taxation that is necessary to	838
verify a permit holder's gallonage or noncompliance with taxes	839
levied under Chapter 4301. or 4305. of the Revised Code;	840
(12) Disclosing to the department of natural resources	841
information in the possession of the department of taxation that	842
is necessary for the department of taxation to verify the	843
taxpayer's compliance with section 5749.02 of the Revised Code	844
or to allow the department of natural resources to enforce	845

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Chapter 1509. of the Revised Code;

- (13) Disclosing to the department of job and family 847 services, industrial commission, and bureau of workers' 848 compensation information in the possession of the department of 849 taxation solely for the purpose of identifying employers that 850 851 misclassify employees as independent contractors or that fail to properly report and pay employer tax liabilities. The department 852 of taxation shall disclose only such information that is 853 necessary to verify employer compliance with law administered by 854 855 those agencies.
- (14) Disclosing to the Ohio casino control commission 856 information in the possession of the department of taxation that 857 is necessary to verify a casino operator's or sports gaming 858 proprietor's compliance with section 5747.063, 5753.02, or 859 5753.021 of the Revised Code and sections related thereto; 860
- (15) Disclosing to the state lottery commission information in the possession of the department of taxation that is necessary to verify a lottery sales agent's compliance with section 5747.064 of the Revised Code.
- 865 (16) Disclosing to the department of development information in the possession of the department of taxation that 866 867 is necessary to ensure compliance with the laws of this state governing taxation and to verify information reported to the 868 department of development for the purpose of evaluating 869 potential tax credits, tax deductions, grants, or loans. Such 870 information shall not include information received from the 871 internal revenue service the disclosure of which is prohibited 872 by section 6103 of the Internal Revenue Code. No officer, 873 employee, or agent of the department of development shall 874 disclose any information provided to the department of 875

department of taxation to make the verification.

(20) Disclosing to the Ohio rail development commission

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development by the department of taxation under division (C)(16)	876
of this section except when disclosure of the information is	877
necessary for, and made solely for the purpose of facilitating,	878
the evaluation of potential tax credits, tax deductions, grants,	879
or loans.	880
(17) Disclosing to the department of insurance information	881
in the possession of the department of taxation that is	882
necessary to ensure a taxpayer's compliance with the	883
requirements with any tax credit administered by the department	884
of development and claimed by the taxpayer against any tax	885
administered by the superintendent of insurance. No officer,	886
employee, or agent of the department of insurance shall disclose	887
any information provided to the department of insurance by the	888
department of taxation under division (C)(17) of this section.	889
(18) Disclosing to the division of liquor control	890
information in the possession of the department of taxation that	891
is necessary for the division and department to comply with the	892
requirements of sections 4303.26 and 4303.271 of the Revised	893
Code.	894
(19) Disclosing to the department of education, upon that	895
department's request, information in the possession of the	896
department of taxation that is necessary only to verify whether	897
the family income of a student applying for or receiving a	898
scholarship under the educational choice scholarship pilot	899
program is equal to, less than, or greater than the income	900
thresholds prescribed by section 3310.032 of the Revised Code.	901
The department of education shall provide sufficient information	902
about the student and the student's family to enable the	903

information in the possession of the department of taxation that 906 is necessary to ensure compliance with the laws of this state 907 governing taxation and to verify information reported to the 908 commission for the purpose of evaluating potential grants or 909 loans. Such information shall not include information received 910 from the internal revenue service the disclosure of which is 911 prohibited by section 6103 of the Internal Revenue Code. No 912 member, officer, employee, or agent of the Ohio rail development 913 commission shall disclose any information provided to the 914 commission by the department of taxation under division (C) (20) 915 of this section except when disclosure of the information is 916 necessary for, and made solely for the purpose of facilitating, 917 the evaluation of potential grants or loans. 918

- (21) Disclosing to the state racing commission information 919 in the possession of the department of taxation that is 920 necessary for verification of compliance with and for 921 enforcement and administration of the taxes levied by Chapter 922 3769. of the Revised Code. Such information shall include 923 information that is necessary for the state racing commission to 924 verify compliance with Chapter 3769. of the Revised Code for the 925 purposes of issuance, denial, suspension, or revocation of a 926 permit pursuant to section 3769.03 or 3769.06 of the Revised 927 Code and related sections. Unless disclosure is otherwise 928 authorized by law, information provided to the state racing 929 commission under this section remains confidential and is not 930 subject to public disclosure pursuant to section 3769.041 of the 931 Revised Code. 932
- (22) Disclosing to the state fire marshal information in 933
 the possession of the department of taxation that is necessary 934
 for the state fire marshal to verify the compliance of a 935
 licensed manufacturer of fireworks or a licensed wholesaler of 936

fireworks with section 3743.22 of the Revised Code. No officer,	937
employee, or agent of the state fire marshal shall disclose any	938
information provided to the state fire marshal by the department	939
of taxation under division (C)(22) of this section.	940
(23) Disclosing to the department of job and family	941
services information in the possession of the department of	942
taxation for either of the following purposes:	943
(a) Making a determination under section 4141.28 of the	944
Revised Code;	945
(b) Verifying an individual's eligibility for a federal	946
program described in section 4141.163 of the Revised Code.	947
Such information shall not include information received	948
from the internal revenue service the disclosure of which is	949
prohibited by section 6103 of the Internal Revenue Code.	950
Sec. 5747.065. (A) If a taxpayer has elected under section	951
4141.321 of the Revised Code to have the director of job and	952
family services deduct and withhold state income tax from the	953
unemployment compensation benefits payable to the taxpayer, the	954
director shall deduct and withhold such tax at the rate or rates	955
that the director shall prescribe in consultation with the tax	956
commissioner.	957
(B)(1) On or before the tenth day of each month, the	958
director of job and family services shall file a return	959
electronically with the tax commissioner-identifying each-	960
taxpayer from whose unemployment compensation amounts were-	961
deducted and withheld under this section during the preceding	962
month, the amount of each such deduction and withholding, the	963
amount of the unemployment compensation from which each such	964
amount was withheld, and any other information required by the	965

commissioner, in the form prescribed by the commissioner. With	966
the return, the director shall remit electronically to the	967
commissioner all the amounts deducted and withheld under this	968
section during the preceding month.	969
(2) On or before the thirty-first day of January of each	970
year, beginning in 2026, the director shall electronically file	971
an annual return with the commissioner, in the form prescribed	972
by the commissioner, indicating the total amount deducted and	973
withheld under this section during the preceding calendar year.	974
At the time of filing that return, the director shall remit any	975
amount deducted and withheld during the preceding calendar year	976
that was not previously remitted.	977
(3) Annually, on or before the thirty-first day of	978
January, the director shall issue an information return to each	979
taxpayer with respect to whom an amount has been deducted and	980
withheld under this section during the preceding calendar year.	981
The information return shall show the total amount deducted from	982
the taxpayer's unemployment compensation benefits during the	983
preceding calendar year and any other information the tax	984
commissioner requires. If the director is required under the	985
Internal Revenue Code to report federal income tax deducted and	986
withheld from unemployment compensation benefits, then the	987
director may report the information required under this section	988
on that report, as authorized by the Internal Revenue Code.	989
(4) Annually, on or before the thirty-first day of	990
January, beginning in 2026, the director shall provide to the	991
commissioner a copy of each information return issued under	992
division (B)(3) of this section for the preceding calendar year.	993
The commissioner may require that the copies be transmitted	994
electronically.	995

(C) Failure of the director to deduct and withhold the	996
required amounts from unemployment compensation benefits or to	997
remit amounts withheld as required by this section does not	998
relieve a taxpayer from liability for the tax imposed by section	999
5747.02 of the Revised Code.	1000
(D) The director of job and family services may adopt	1001
rules as necessary to administer this section.	1002
Sec. 5747.18. The tax commissioner shall enforce and	1003
administer this chapter. In addition to any other powers	1004
conferred upon the commissioner by law, the commissioner may:	1005
(A) Prescribe all forms required to be filed pursuant to	1006
this chapter;	1007
(B) Adopt such rules as the commissioner finds necessary	1008
to carry out this chapter;	1009
(C) Appoint and employ such personnel as are necessary to	1010
carry out the duties imposed upon the commissioner by this	1011
chapter.	1012
Any information gained as the result of returns,	1013
investigations, hearings, or verifications required or	1014
authorized by this chapter is confidential, and no person shall	1015
disclose such information, except for official purposes, or as	1016
provided by section 3125.43, 4123.271, 4123.591, 4141.163,	1017
4141.28, 4507.023, 5101.182, or 5703.21 of the Revised Code, or	1018
in accordance with a proper judicial order. The tax commissioner	1019
may furnish the internal revenue service with copies of returns	1020
or reports filed and may furnish the officer of a municipal	1021
corporation charged with the duty of enforcing a tax subject to	1022
Chapter 718. of the Revised Code with the names, addresses, and	1023
identification numbers of taxpayers who may be subject to such	1024

Section 5. That existing Section 8 of S.B. 18 of the 134th

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presented in this act.

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