

# FISCAL NOTE

November 9, 2021

<b>Bill No:</b>	HB 129	<b>Printer's No:</b>	1311	<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.

This legislation would take effect in 60 days.

**FISCAL IMPACT:** The fiscal and economic impact of holding hearings by telephone is still being determined, as it is unclear at this point for how long the current pandemic will continue. L&I has not taken steps to permanently configure operations for telephone hearings. Any savings will be offset to some extent by the increased cost of mailing documents to parties in advance of every hearing.

The annual cost estimate for processing and mailing documents for permanent telephone hearings is approximately \$1 million per year.