Assembly Bill No. 1794

CHAPTER 811

An act to amend Section 1088.5 of the Unemployment Insurance Code, relating to employers.

[Approved by Governor September 30, 2012. Filed with Secretary of State September 30, 2012.]

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST


(1) Existing law provides for the payment of unemployment compensation benefits to eligible unemployed individuals, and requires the Employment Development Department to implement and administer the unemployment insurance system in the state. Existing law requires each employer to file with the department a report of wages paid to his or her workers and to furnish to each employee a written statement showing, among other things, the total amount of wages, and total wages subject to personal income tax, as provided. Existing law also requires each employer to file with the department specified information on new employees, and authorizes the use of that information for specified purposes including, among other things, administration of the law regarding unemployment compensation benefits. Existing law provides that a person who knowingly accesses, uses, or discloses confidential information without authorization is guilty of a misdemeanor.

This bill would, until January 1, 2019, also authorize the Employment Development Department to provide the specified new employee information to the Joint Enforcement Strike Force on the Underground Economy, the Contractors’ State License Board, and the State Compensation Insurance Fund, as provided. By expanding the crime of knowingly and wrongfully accessing, using, or disclosing specified information, this bill would impose a state-mandated local program.

The California Constitution requires the state to reimburse local agencies and school districts for certain costs mandated by the state. Statutory provisions establish procedures for making that reimbursement.

This bill would provide that no reimbursement is required by this act for a specified reason.

(2) Existing law imposes specified regulatory and enforcement responsibilities relating to employers on the Employment Development Department, the Contractors’ State License Board, and the State Compensation Insurance Fund.

This bill would require the Employment Development Department, the Contractors’ State License Board, and the State Compensation Insurance
Fund to execute, on or before July 1, 2013, a memorandum of understanding regarding the administration and enforcement of reporting and payroll duties relating to contractors.

(3) This bill would incorporate additional changes in Section 1088.5 of the Unemployment Insurance Code, proposed by AB 174 and AB 1845 that would become operative only if this bill and either or both of those bills are chaptered and become effective January 1, 2013, and this bill is chaptered last.

The people of the State of California do enact as follows:

SECTION 1. Section 1088.5 of the Unemployment Insurance Code is amended to read:

1088.5. (a) In addition to information reported in accordance with Section 1088, effective July 1, 1998, each employer shall file, with the department, the information provided for in subdivision (b) on new employees.

(b) Each employer shall report the hiring of any employee who works in this state and to whom the employer anticipates paying wages.

(c) (1) This section shall not apply to any department, agency, or instrumentality of the United States.

(2) State agency employers shall not be required to report employees performing intelligence or counterintelligence functions, if the head of the agency has determined that reporting pursuant to this section would endanger the safety of the employee or compromise an ongoing investigation or intelligence mission.

(d) (1) Employers shall submit a report as described in paragraph (4) within 20 days of hiring any employee whom the employer is required to report pursuant to this section.

(2) Notwithstanding subdivision (a), employers transmitting reports magnetically or electronically shall submit the report by two monthly transmissions not less than 12 days and not more than 16 days apart.

(3) For purposes of this section, an employer that has employees in two or more states and that transmits reports magnetically or electronically may designate one state in which the employer has employees to which the employer will transmit the report described in paragraph (4). Any employer that transmits reports pursuant to this paragraph shall notify the Secretary of Health and Human Services in writing as to which state the employer designates for the purpose of sending reports.

(4) The report shall contain the following:

(A) The name, address, and social security number of the employees.

(B) The employer’s name, address, state employer identification number (if one has been issued), and identifying number assigned to the employer under Section 6109 of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986.

(C) The first date the employee worked.
(5) Employers may report pursuant to this section by submitting a copy of the employee’s W-4 form, a form provided by the department, or any other hiring document transmitted by first-class mail, magnetically, or electronically.

(e) For each failure to report the hiring of an employee, as required and within the time required by this section, unless the failure is due to good cause, the department may assess a penalty of twenty-four dollars ($24), or four hundred ninety dollars ($490) if the failure is the result of conspiracy between the employer and employee not to supply the required report or to supply a false or incomplete report.

(f) (1) On and after January 1, 2013, and before January 1, 2019, information collected pursuant to this section may be used for the following purposes:

(A) Administration of this code, including, but not limited to, providing employer or employee information to participating members of the Joint Enforcement Strike Force on the Underground Economy pursuant to Section 329 for the purposes of auditing, investigating, and prosecuting violations of tax and cash-pay reporting laws.

(B) Locating individuals for purposes of establishing paternity and establishing, modifying, and enforcing child support obligations.

(C) Administration of employment security and workers’ compensation programs.

(D) Providing employer or employee information to the Franchise Tax Board and the State Board of Equalization for the purpose of tax or fee enforcement.

(E) Verification of eligibility of applicants for, or recipients of, the public assistance programs listed in Section 1320b-7(b) of Title 42 of the United States Code.

(F) Providing employer or employee information to the Contractors’ State License Board and the State Compensation Insurance Fund for the purpose of workers’ compensation payroll reporting.

(2) On and after January 1, 2019, information collected pursuant to this section may be used for the following purposes:

(A) Administration of this code.

(B) Locating individuals for purposes of establishing paternity and establishing, modifying, and enforcing child support obligations.

(C) Administration of employment security and workers’ compensation programs.

(D) Providing employer or employee information to the Franchise Tax Board and to the State Board of Equalization for the purposes of tax or fee enforcement.

(E) Verification of eligibility of applicants for, or recipients of, the public assistance programs listed in Section 1320b-7(b) of Title 42 of the United States Code.

(g) For purposes of this section, “employer” includes a labor union hiring hall.

(h) This section shall become operative on July 1, 1998.
SEC. 1.1. Section 1088.5 of the Unemployment Insurance Code is amended to read:

1088.5. (a) In addition to information reported in accordance with Section 1088, effective July 1, 1998, each employer shall file, with the department, the information provided for in subdivision (b) on new employees.

(b) Each employer shall report the hiring of any employee who works in this state and to whom the employer anticipates paying wages.

(c) (1) This section shall not apply to any department, agency, or instrumentality of the United States.

(2) State agency employers shall not be required to report employees performing intelligence or counterintelligence functions, if the head of the agency has determined that reporting pursuant to this section would endanger the safety of the employee or compromise an ongoing investigation or intelligence mission.

(d) (1) Employers shall submit a report as described in paragraph (4) within 20 days of hiring any employee whom the employer is required to report pursuant to this section.

(2) Notwithstanding subdivision (a), employers transmitting reports magnetically or electronically shall submit the report by two monthly transmissions not less than 12 days and not more than 16 days apart.

(3) For purposes of this section, an employer that has employees in two or more states and that transmits reports magnetically or electronically may designate one state in which the employer has employees to which the employer will transmit the report described in paragraph (4). Any employer that transmits reports pursuant to this paragraph shall notify the Secretary of Health and Human Services in writing as to which state the employer designates for the purpose of sending reports.

(4) The report shall contain the following:

(A) The name, address, and social security number of the employees.

(B) The employer’s name, address, state employer identification number (if one has been issued), and identifying number assigned to the employer under Section 6109 of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986.

(C) The first date the employee worked.

(5) Employers may report pursuant to this section by submitting a copy of the employee’s W-4 form, a form provided by the department, or any other hiring document transmitted by first-class mail, magnetically, or electronically.

(e) For each failure to report the hiring of an employee, as required and within the time required by this section, unless the failure is due to good cause, the department may assess a penalty of twenty-four dollars ($24), or four hundred ninety dollars ($490) if the failure is the result of conspiracy between the employer and employee not to supply the required report or to supply a false or incomplete report.

(f) (1) On and after January 1, 2013, and before January 1, 2019, information collected pursuant to this section may be used for the following purposes:
(A) Administration of this code, including, but not limited to, providing employer or employee information to participating members of the Joint Enforcement Strike Force on the Underground Economy pursuant to Section 329 for the purposes of auditing, investigating, and prosecuting violations of tax and cash-pay reporting laws.

(B) Locating individuals for purposes of establishing paternity and establishing, modifying, and enforcing child support obligations.

(C) Administration of employment security and workers’ compensation programs.

(D) Providing employer or employee information to the Franchise Tax Board and the State Board of Equalization for the purpose of tax or fee enforcement.

(E) Verification of eligibility of applicants for, or recipients of, the public assistance programs listed in Section 1320b-7(b) of Title 42 of the United States Code.

(F) Providing employer or employee information to the Contractors’ State License Board and the State Compensation Insurance Fund for the purpose of workers’ compensation payroll reporting.

(G) Providing employer or employee information to the State Department of Health Care Services, the California Health Benefit Exchange, the Managed Risk Medical Insurance Board, and county departments and agencies for the purpose of:

(i) Verifying or determining the eligibility of an applicant for, or a recipient of, state health subsidy programs, limited to the Medi-Cal program, provided pursuant to Chapter 7 (commencing with Section 14000) of Part 3 of Division 9 of the Welfare and Institutions Code, the Healthy Families Program, provided pursuant to Part 6.2 (commencing with Section 12693) of Division 2 of the Insurance Code, and the Access for Infants and Mothers Program, provided pursuant to Part 6.3 (commencing with Section 12695) of Division 2 of the Insurance Code, where the verification or determination is directly connected with, and limited to, the administration of the state health subsidy programs referenced in this clause.

(ii) Verifying or determining the eligibility of an applicant for, or a recipient of, federal subsidies offered through the California Health Benefit Exchange, provided pursuant to Title 22 (commencing with Section 100500) of the Government Code, including federal tax credits and cost-sharing assistance pursuant to the federal Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act (Public Law 111-148), as amended by the federal Health Care and Education Reconciliation Act of 2010 (Public Law 111-152), where the verification or determination is directly connected with, and limited to, the administration of the California Health Benefit Exchange.

(iii) Verifying or determining the eligibility of employees and employers for health coverage through the Small Business Health Options Program, provided pursuant to Section 100502 of the Government Code, where the verification or determination is directly connected with, and limited to, the administration of the Small Business Health Options Program.
(2) On and after January 1, 2019, information collected pursuant to this section may be used for the following purposes:

(A) Administration of this code.

(B) Locating individuals for purposes of establishing paternity and establishing, modifying, and enforcing child support obligations.

(C) Administration of employment security and workers’ compensation programs.

(D) Providing employer or employee information to the Franchise Tax Board and to the State Board of Equalization for the purposes of tax or fee enforcement.

(E) Verification of eligibility of applicants for, or recipients of, the public assistance programs listed in Section 1320b-7(b) of Title 42 of the United States Code.

(F) Providing employer or employee information to the State Department of Health Care Services, the California Health Benefit Exchange, the Managed Risk Medical Insurance Board, and county departments and agencies for the purpose of:

(i) Verifying or determining the eligibility of an applicant for, or a recipient of, state health subsidy programs, limited to the Medi-Cal program, provided pursuant to Chapter 7 (commencing with Section 14000) of Part 3 of Division 9 of the Welfare and Institutions Code, the Healthy Families Program, provided pursuant to Part 6.2 (commencing with Section 12693) of Division 2 of the Insurance Code, and the Access for Infants and Mothers Program, provided pursuant to Part 6.3 (commencing with Section 12695) of Division 2 of the Insurance Code, where the verification or determination is directly connected with, and limited to, the administration of the state health subsidy programs referenced in this clause.

(ii) Verifying or determining the eligibility of an applicant for, or a recipient of, federal subsidies offered through the California Health Benefit Exchange, provided pursuant to Title 22 (commencing with Section 100500) of the Government Code, including federal tax credits and cost-sharing assistance pursuant to the federal Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act (Public Law 111-148), as amended by the federal Health Care and Education Reconciliation Act of 2010 (Public Law 111-152), where the verification or determination is directly connected with, and limited to, the administration of the California Health Benefit Exchange.

(iii) Verifying or determining the eligibility of employees and employers for health coverage through the Small Business Health Options Program, provided pursuant to Section 100502 of the Government Code, where the verification or determination is directly connected with, and limited to, the administration of the Small Business Health Options Program.

(g) For purposes of this section, “employer” includes a labor union hiring hall.

(h) This section shall become operative on July 1, 1998.

SEC. 1.2. Section 1088.5 of the Unemployment Insurance Code is amended to read:
1088.5. (a) In addition to information reported in accordance with Section 1088, effective July 1, 1998, each employer shall file, with the department, the information provided for in subdivision (b) on new employees.

(b) Each employer shall report the hiring of any employee who works in this state and to whom the employer anticipates paying wages, and also shall report the hiring of any employee who previously worked for the employer but had been separated from that prior employment for at least 60 consecutive days.

(c) (1) This section shall not apply to any department, agency, or instrumentality of the United States.

(2) State agency employers shall not be required to report employees performing intelligence or counterintelligence functions, if the head of the agency has determined that reporting pursuant to this section would endanger the safety of the employee or compromise an ongoing investigation or intelligence mission.

(d) (1) Employers shall submit a report as described in paragraph (4) within 20 days of hiring any employee whom the employer is required to report pursuant to this section.

(2) Notwithstanding subdivision (a), employers transmitting reports magnetically or electronically shall submit the report by two monthly transmissions not less than 12 days and not more than 16 days apart.

(3) For purposes of this section, an employer that has employees in two or more states and that transmits reports magnetically or electronically may designate one state in which the employer has employees to which the employer will transmit the report described in paragraph (4). Any employer that transmits reports pursuant to this paragraph shall notify the Secretary of Health and Human Services in writing as to which state the employer designates for the purpose of sending reports.

(4) The report shall contain the following:

(A) The name, address, and social security number of the employees.

(B) The employer’s name, address, state employer identification number (if one has been issued), and identifying number assigned to the employer under Section 6109 of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986.

(C) The first date the employee worked.

(5) Employers may report pursuant to this section by submitting a copy of the employee’s W-4 form, a form provided by the department, or any other hiring document transmitted by first-class mail, magnetically, or electronically.

(e) For each failure to report the hiring of an employee, as required and within the time required by this section, unless the failure is due to good cause, the department may assess a penalty of twenty-four dollars ($24), or four hundred ninety dollars ($490) if the failure is the result of conspiracy between the employer and employee not to supply the required report or to supply a false or incomplete report.
(f) (1) On and after January 1, 2013, and before January 1, 2019, information collected pursuant to this section may be used for the following purposes:

(A) Administration of this code, including, but not limited to, providing employer or employee information to participating members of the Joint Enforcement Strike Force on the Underground Economy pursuant to Section 329 for the purposes of auditing, investigating, and prosecuting violations of tax and cash-pay reporting laws.

(B) Locating individuals for purposes of establishing paternity and establishing, modifying, and enforcing child support obligations.

(C) Administration of employment security and workers’ compensation programs.

(D) Providing employer or employee information to the Franchise Tax Board and the State Board of Equalization for the purpose of tax or fee enforcement.

(E) Verification of eligibility of applicants for, or recipients of, the public assistance programs listed in Section 1320b-7(b) of Title 42 of the United States Code.

(F) Providing employer or employee information to the Contractors’ State License Board and the State Compensation Insurance Fund for the purpose of workers’ compensation payroll reporting.

(2) On and after January 1, 2019, information collected pursuant to this section may be used for the following purposes:

(A) Administration of this code.

(B) Locating individuals for purposes of establishing paternity and establishing, modifying, and enforcing child support obligations.

(C) Administration of employment security and workers’ compensation programs.

(D) Providing employer or employee information to the Franchise Tax Board and to the State Board of Equalization for the purposes of tax or fee enforcement.

(E) Verification of eligibility of applicants for, or recipients of, the public assistance programs listed in Section 1320b-7(b) of Title 42 of the United States Code.

(g) For purposes of this section, “employer” includes a labor union hiring hall.

(h) This section shall become operative on July 1, 1998.

SEC. 1.3. Section 1088.5 of the Unemployment Insurance Code is amended to read:

1088.5. (a) In addition to information reported in accordance with Section 1088, effective July 1, 1998, each employer shall file, with the department, the information provided for in subdivision (b) on new employees.

(b) Each employer shall report the hiring of any employee who works in this state and to whom the employer anticipates paying wages, and also shall report the hiring of any employee who previously worked for the
employer but had been separated from that prior employment for at least 60 consecutive days.

(c) (1) This section shall not apply to any department, agency, or instrumentality of the United States.

(2) State agency employers shall not be required to report employees performing intelligence or counterintelligence functions, if the head of the agency has determined that reporting pursuant to this section would endanger the safety of the employee or compromise an ongoing investigation or intelligence mission.

(d) (1) Employers shall submit a report as described in paragraph (4) within 20 days of hiring any employee whom the employer is required to report pursuant to this section.

(2) Notwithstanding subdivision (a), employers transmitting reports magnetically or electronically shall submit the report by two monthly transmissions not less than 12 days and not more than 16 days apart.

(3) For purposes of this section, an employer that has employees in two or more states and that transmits reports magnetically or electronically may designate one state in which the employer has employees to which the employer will transmit the report described in paragraph (4). Any employer that transmits reports pursuant to this paragraph shall notify the Secretary of Health and Human Services in writing as to which state the employer designates for the purpose of sending reports.

(4) The report shall contain the following:

(A) The name, address, and social security number of the employees.

(B) The employer’s name, address, state employer identification number (if one has been issued), and identifying number assigned to the employer under Section 6109 of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986.

(C) The first date the employee worked.

(5) Employers may report pursuant to this section by submitting a copy of the employee’s W-4 form, a form provided by the department, or any other hiring document transmitted by first-class mail, magnetically, or electronically.

(e) For each failure to report the hiring of an employee, as required and within the time required by this section, unless the failure is due to good cause, the department may assess a penalty of twenty-four dollars ($24) or four hundred ninety dollars ($490) if the failure is the result of conspiracy between the employer and employee not to supply the required report or to supply a false or incomplete report.

(f) (1) On and after January 1, 2013, and before January 1, 2019, information collected pursuant to this section may be used for the following purposes:

(A) Administration of this code, including, but not limited to, providing employer or employee information to participating members of the Joint Enforcement Strike Force on the Underground Economy pursuant to Section 329 for the purposes of auditing, investigating, and prosecuting violations of tax and cash-pay reporting laws.
(B) Locating individuals for purposes of establishing paternity and establishing, modifying, and enforcing child support obligations.

(C) Administration of employment security and workers’ compensation programs.

(D) Providing employer or employee information to the Franchise Tax Board and the State Board of Equalization for the purpose of tax or fee enforcement.

(E) Verification of eligibility of applicants for, or recipients of, the public assistance programs listed in Section 1320b-7(b) of Title 42 of the United States Code.

(F) Providing employer or employee information to the Contractors’ State License Board and the State Compensation Insurance Fund for the purpose of workers’ compensation payroll reporting.

(G) Providing employer or employee information to the State Department of Health Care Services, the California Health Benefit Exchange, the Managed Risk Medical Insurance Board, and county departments and agencies for the purpose of:

   (i) Verifying or determining the eligibility of an applicant for, or a recipient of, state health subsidy programs, limited to the Medi-Cal program, provided pursuant to Chapter 7 (commencing with Section 14000) of Part 3 of Division 9 of the Welfare and Institutions Code, the Healthy Families Program, provided pursuant to Part 6.2 (commencing with Section 12693) of Division 2 of the Insurance Code, and the Access for Infants and Mothers Program, provided pursuant to Part 6.3 (commencing with Section 12695) of Division 2 of the Insurance Code, where the verification or determination is directly connected with, and limited to, the administration of the state health subsidy programs referenced in this clause.

   (ii) Verifying or determining the eligibility of an applicant for, or a recipient of, federal subsidies offered through the California Health Benefit Exchange, provided pursuant to Title 22 (commencing with Section 100500) of the Government Code, including federal tax credits and cost-sharing assistance pursuant to the federal Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act (Public Law 111-148), as amended by the federal Health Care and Education Reconciliation Act of 2010 (Public Law 111-152), where the verification or determination is directly connected with, and limited to, the administration of the California Health Benefit Exchange.

   (iii) Verifying or determining the eligibility of employees and employers for health coverage through the Small Business Health Options Program, provided pursuant to Section 100502 of the Government Code, where the verification or determination is directly connected with, and limited to, the administration of the Small Business Health Options Program.

(2) On and after January 1, 2019, information collected pursuant to this section may be used for the following purposes:

   (A) Administration of this code.

   (B) Locating individuals for purposes of establishing paternity and establishing, modifying, and enforcing child support obligations.
(C) Administration of employment security and workers’ compensation programs.

(D) Providing employer or employee information to the Franchise Tax Board and to the State Board of Equalization for the purposes of tax or fee enforcement.

(E) Verification of eligibility of applicants for, or recipients of, the public assistance programs listed in Section 1320b-7(b) of Title 42 of the United States Code.

(F) Providing employer or employee information to the State Department of Health Care Services, the California Health Benefit Exchange, the Managed Risk Medical Insurance Board, and county departments and agencies for the purpose of:

   (i) Verifying or determining the eligibility of an applicant for, or a recipient of, state health subsidy programs, limited to the Medi-Cal program, provided pursuant to Chapter 7 (commencing with Section 14000) of Part 3 of Division 9 of the Welfare and Institutions Code, the Healthy Families Program, provided pursuant to Part 6.2 (commencing with Section 12693) of Division 2 of the Insurance Code, and the Access for Infants and Mothers Program, provided pursuant to Part 6.3 (commencing with Section 12695) of Division 2 of the Insurance Code, where the verification or determination is directly connected with, and limited to, the administration of the state health subsidy programs referenced in this clause.

   (ii) Verifying or determining the eligibility of an applicant for, or a recipient of, federal subsidies offered through the California Health Benefit Exchange, provided pursuant to Title 22 (commencing with Section 100500) of the Government Code, including federal tax credits and cost-sharing assistance pursuant to the federal Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act, (Public Law 111-148), as amended by the federal Health Care and Education Reconciliation Act of 2010 (Public Law 111-152), where the verification or determination is directly connected with, and limited to, the administration of the California Health Benefit Exchange.

   (iii) Verifying or determining the eligibility of employees and employers for health coverage through the Small Business Health Options Program, provided pursuant to Section 100502 of the Government Code, where the verification or determination is directly connected with, and limited to, the administration of the Small Business Health Options Program.

(g) For purposes of this section, “employer” includes a labor union hiring hall.

(h) This section shall become operative on July 1, 1998.

SEC. 2. On or before July 1, 2013, the Employment Development Department, the Contractors’ State License Board, and the State Compensation Insurance Fund shall execute a memorandum of understanding to share information and coordinate enforcement actions against contractors that fail to report new employees to the Employment Development Department and accurate payroll to the State Compensation Insurance Fund.

SEC. 3. (a) Section 1.1 of this bill incorporates all of the substantive amendments to Section 1088.5 of the Unemployment Insurance Code
proposed by both this bill and Assembly Bill 174. It shall only become operative if (1) both bills are enacted and become effective on or before January 1, 2013, (2) each bill amends Section 1088.5 of the Unemployment Insurance Code, and (3) Assembly Bill 1845 is not enacted or as enacted does not amend that section, and (4) this bill is enacted after Assembly 174, in which case Sections 1, 1.2, and 1.3 of this bill shall not become operative.

(b) Section 1.2 of this bill incorporates amendments to Section 1088.5 of the Unemployment Insurance Code proposed by both this bill and Assembly Bill 1845. It shall only become operative if (1) both bills are enacted and become effective on or before January 1, 2013, (2) each bill amends Section 1088.5 of the Unemployment Insurance Code, (3) Assembly Bill 174 is not enacted or as enacted does not amend that section, and (4) this bill is enacted after Assembly Bill 1845 in which case Sections 1, 1.1, and 1.3 of this bill shall not become operative.

(c) Section 1.3 of this bill incorporates all of the substantive amendments to Section 1088.5 of the Unemployment Insurance Code proposed by this bill, Assembly Bill 174, and Assembly Bill 1845. It shall only become operative if (1) all three bills are enacted and become effective on or before January 1, 2013, (2) all three bills amend Section 1088.5 of the Unemployment Insurance Code, and (3) this bill is enacted after Assembly Bill 174 and Assembly Bill 1845, in which case Sections 1, 1.1, and 1.2 of this bill shall not become operative.

SEC. 4. No reimbursement is required by this act pursuant to Section 6 of Article XIII B of the California Constitution because the only costs that may be incurred by a local agency or school district will be incurred because this act creates a new crime or infraction, eliminates a crime or infraction, or changes the penalty for a crime or infraction, within the meaning of Section 17556 of the Government Code, or changes the definition of a crime within the meaning of Section 6 of Article XIII B of the California Constitution.