

ASSEMBLY BILL

No. 944

Introduced by Assembly Member Obernolte

February 26, 2015

An act to amend Section 1951 of the Unemployment Insurance Code, relating to unemployment compensation.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

AB 944, as introduced, Obernolte. Unemployment compensation benefits: hearing procedures.

Existing law creates the Employment Development Department and requires that it pay unemployment compensation benefits to individuals who meet specified requirements, are unemployed, as defined, and file a valid claim for these benefits. Existing law requires employers to make specified contributions to the Unemployment Fund to finance those benefits and authorizes employers and individual claiming unemployment compensation benefits to appeal determinations of eligibility, among other things. Existing law regulates the hearings of disputed claims, appeals, and petitions and requires the California Unemployment Insurance Appeals Board, among other things, to permit a party or representative to participate in a hearing by telephone upon the party's or representative's request, as specified.

This bill would instead require those hearings to be conducted by telephone unless a party or representative requests otherwise pursuant to regulations adopted by the board.

Vote: majority. Appropriation: no. Fiscal committee: yes.
State-mandated local program: no.

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

1 SECTION 1. Section 1951 of the Unemployment Insurance
2 Code is amended to read:
3 1951. The manner in which disputed claims, appeals and
4 petitions shall be presented, the reports required thereon from the
5 claimant and from any employing unit and the conduct of hearings
6 and appeals shall be in accordance with rules prescribed by the
7 appeals board. The appeals board shall require administrative law
8 judges to consolidate for hearing cases with respect to which the
9 alleged facts and the points of law are the same. ~~The appeals board~~
10 ~~shall permit a party or representative to participate in a hearing by~~
11 ~~telephone upon the party's or representative's request and showing~~
12 ~~a good cause, in accordance with regulations adopted by the board.~~
13 *Hearings shall be conducted by telephone unless a party or*
14 *representative requests otherwise pursuant to regulations adopted*
15 *by the board.*