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This act summary is provided for the convenience of the public and members of the General Assembly. It is intended to provide a general summary of the act and may not be exhaustive. It has been prepared by the staff of the Office of Legislative Counsel without input from members of the General Assembly. It is not intended to aid in the interpretation of legislation or to serve as a source of legislative intent.

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**Act No. 51 (S.62). Commerce and trade; economic development; labor;  
unemployment insurance**

**An act relating to employee incentives, technical education, and  
unemployment insurance**

This act does the following:

- directs the Agency of Commerce and Community Development to design and implement a program to provide incentives to new relocating employees;
- allocates funds appropriated in the Big Bill for career and technical education;
- expands the instances in which employers may be entitled to unemployment insurance experience rating relief in 2020 and provides experience rating relief for unemployment insurance benefits paid during 2021 for COVID-19-related separations from employment;
- extends the repeal date for certain COVID-19-related unemployment insurance laws that were enacted in 2020;
- temporarily suspends certain requirements to trigger an extended unemployment insurance benefit period;
- reduces unemployment insurance tax rates by removing the unemployment insurance benefits paid during 2020 from consideration during the annual determination of the unemployment insurance tax schedule;
- provides that the maximum weekly unemployment insurance benefit cannot decrease;
- adds a temporary supplemental unemployment insurance benefit of \$25.00 per week;
- requires the Commissioner of Labor to include an accounting of the amount of supplemental unemployment insurance benefits paid in the annual report on the Unemployment Insurance Trust Fund;
- requires the Commissioner of Labor to notify the Governor and the General Assembly if the balance of the Unemployment Insurance Trust Fund drops below \$180,000,000.00;
- requires the State Auditor to contract with a consultant to examine and identify opportunities for improvement in Vermont's efforts to detect

and prevent unemployment insurance fraud and unemployment insurance overpayments;

- creates a legislative study committee to examine the solvency of the Unemployment Insurance Trust Fund; the adequacy of unemployment insurance benefits; instances when it may be appropriate for the Commissioner of Labor to waive or reduce certain penalties; and potential statutory changes to mitigate certain adverse impacts on nonprofit employers who reimburse the unemployment insurance system for benefits paid to their former employees; and
- amends the due dates for two reports on the enforcement of laws against employee misclassification.

Multiple effective dates, beginning on March 31, 2021