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## DIGEST

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HB 151 Original

2021 Regular Session

Riser

**Abstract:** Increases the administrative penalties for employers who misclassify employees and fail to pay unemployment insurance contributions.

Present law provides that when it is discovered that an employer has not properly classified employees and has failed to pay contributions as requested by present law, that he shall receive a written warning if there is evidence that his failure to properly classify and pay contributions was not knowing or willful.

Proposed law deletes present law regarding the written warning and instead provides that upon an initial investigation through which it is determined that an employer has knowingly and willfully misclassified employees, in addition to any contributions, interest, and penalties otherwise due, the administrator may assess an administrative penalty of up to \$5,000 per employee.

Present law provides that upon a second offense of misclassification, the administrator shall assess a penalty of up to \$250 for each misclassified employee, in addition to the contributions, interest, and penalties owed.

Proposed law changes the penalty for a second offense from up to \$250 to up to \$10,000 per misclassified employee in addition to the contributions, interest, and penalties owed.

Present law provides that upon a subsequent offense of misclassification, the administrator shall assess a penalty of up to \$500 for each misclassified employee, in addition to contributions, interest, and penalties previously owed.

Proposed law changes the penalty for a subsequent offense from up to \$500 to up to \$25,000 per misclassified employee in addition to the contributions, interest, and penalties owed.

Present law requires that the administrator, in determining the amount of penalties, consider previous violations, the seriousness of the violation, the good faith of the employer, and the size of the business. Proposed law retains present law.

Present law provides that upon a subsequent offense of misclassification, the administrator may also issue an additional fine between \$100 and \$1,000 or imprisonment between 30 and 90 days or both, for each misclassified employee, in addition to contributions, interest, and penalties previously owed.

Proposed law changes the penalty for a subsequent offense from a fine between \$100 and \$1,000 or

imprisonment between 30 and 90 days or both to a fine up to \$50,000 and imprisonment between 30 and 90 days, per misclassified employee in addition to the contributions, interest, and penalties owed.

Proposed law provides that in addition to any penalties assessed for a second or subsequent offense, an employer is ineligible to receive any state tax rebates to which he is otherwise entitled.

(Amends R.S. 23:1711(G)(1))