

A newsletter for Michigan Employers on Unemployment Insurance.

## You Spoke—We Listened

There are many changes going on with the Michigan Unemployment Insurance (UI) program. As these changes occur, we are committed to improved communication throughout the process. As employers, you fundamentally support the UI program, and your feedback and participation are valuable for our continued improvement.

The Governor signed a package of eight bills at the end of 2017, aimed at reforming the UI system and the customer experience. These bills are the result of a bipartisan legislative workgroup that included the interests of both employer and claimant advocates.

### Some highlights:

- **HB 5170** (effective Jan 1) requires that you are informed on every case as to whether the agency received your response when making a decision about eligibility for unemployment benefits.
- **HB 5165** and **5168** (effective March 21) strengthens agency efforts to combat identity theft and provides for notification to you and the victim upon completion of an investigation.
- **HB 5171** (effective March 21) more clearly defines the application for a hardship waiver when an individual filing for unemployment benefits is overpaid.



In our next quarterly issue, we will discuss the remaining four bills affecting the UI program that become effective July 1.

Your participation is critical in ensuring that unemployment benefits are paid appropriately. You can help by making sure you file your wage and tax reports every quarter. When you receive a request for information from us, please respond promptly and fully. Thank you!

## Quarterly Reports Due April 25

The first quarter 2018 Employer's Quarterly Wage/Tax report is due by April 25, 2018. Here are some things you need to know as the filing deadline comes near:

- You can set up email reminders in your MiWAM account for 10 days or 25 days before the Quarterly reports are due. This handy feature is in the "Set Up Email Reminders" section of MiWAM.
- Any employer operating a business (liable employer) is required to file Quarterly Wage Tax reports even if there were no employees and no wages paid during the quarter.
- When a report is filed late, a penalty of up to \$250 will be charged with an additional \$250 charged for each calendar quarter that the report is late. If filed late, but within 30 days of the due date, the penalty is \$50.
- You can submit your quarterly report using an imported file you created. This format is included on the Employer's Quarterly Wage/Tax Report screen in MiWAM. Instructions and specifications to import files are included in the MiWAM employer toolkit.

**INSIDE:**

Identity Theft  
Did You Know?

# Identity Theft

## Preventing Fraud

Ensuring that benefits are paid properly to those who are eligible and qualified is a top priority of the Unemployment Insurance (UI) program. According to a recent study, 16.7 million Americans were victims of ID theft in 2017. Major corporations, small businesses and government entities are all experiencing high volumes of identity theft, including unemployment fraud.

To help combat the growing problem of criminals using stolen ID's from data breaches from a variety of sources to fraudulently claim unemployment benefits, the Michigan legislature and Governor Snyder have passed legislation that includes a new verification process for both employers and claimants. House Bill 5165, effective March 21, 2018, outlines the process to address false claims.

Listed below is the process for addressing questions of identity theft:

- If you suspect a claim is fraudulent, notify the Unemployment Insurance division, providing details and supporting documentation.
- Have the employee who may be the victim of identity theft submit a [Statement of Identity Theft](#) to UI indicating that they did not file the claim for benefits.
- UI will mail a determination regarding the identity theft claim to all interested parties.
- If it is determined that the claim was the result of identity theft, the claim will be canceled and the employer's account for the benefits that may have



been paid to the imposter will be credited within 60 days after the determination becomes final.

These changes, along with stronger detection mechanisms in the claim filing process, strengthening our communications, providing quality customer service, and resolving issues in a timely manner will help improve our efforts to combat imposter claims. For more information on what to do if you suspect identity theft, visit our website at [michigan.gov/uia](http://michigan.gov/uia). You can report fraud, fill out a [Statement of Identity Theft](#), and download fact sheets about how to protect yourself from identity theft.

Fact Sheet 166 - [Protecting Unemployment Benefits from Identity Theft](#)

Fact Sheet 167 - [Protecting Your Business and Employees from Identity Theft](#)

## Did You Know?

UI continues to do our best to provide responsive efficient service to our customers. Thanks in part to our work, and your help, employers on average can expect a 4.5 percent decrease in 2018 tax rates.

## Did You Know?

Less than one-third of individuals filing for unemployment benefits actually exhaust their claim (31.7 percent) This generally occurs because they return to work.

Rick Snyder, Governor  
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Michelle Beebe, Director, Unemployment Insurance  
Lynda Robinson, Editor; TIA is an equal opportunity employer/program.

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