

Department of Labor & Industry

HB 142 - UI Theft and Administrative Penalties

Representative Jennifer Lynch, HD 73

- The bill makes clear that the theft of unemployment benefits is a specific type of theft under criminal law and clarifies the potential charges and penalties faced by those suspected of UI theft.
- Under current law, the statute defining theft only includes references to theft of workers' compensation benefits. This bill adds a reference to Chapter 51 (Unemployment Insurance) to describe the actions of those who steal UI benefits more robustly – increasing the odds that people who are guilty will be convicted.
- Additionally, the bill clarifies conviction for “False Claim to Public Agency” entitles the Department to restitution to include the assessed administrative penalties.

CONTACT

Aaron Larson
CSD, *Policy Director*
MTDLI
406.444.3830
aaron.larson@mt.gov

Eric Strauss
ESD, *Administrator*
MTDLI
406.444.1574
estrauss@mt.gov

