

# UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE

## *Operations and Performance of the Virginia Employment Commission, 2021*

### **POLICY OPTIONS**

**State call center augmentation contracts** ► The General Assembly could include language in the Appropriation Act directing the Department of General Services (DGS) and the Virginia Information Technologies Agency (VITA) to assess agencies' need for call center staff augmentation and ensure that contractual solutions to meet those needs are in place. (Option 1)

**Tying UI benefits levels to an economic metric** ► The General Assembly could amend section § 60.2-602 of the Code of Virginia to modify the unemployment insurance benefits formula to automatically adjust unemployment insurance benefit amounts annually based on a statewide economic metric. (Option 4)

**One-time increase in UI benefits amounts** ► The General Assembly could amend section § 60.2-602 of the Code of Virginia to modify the unemployment insurance benefits formula to enact a one-time increase in the maximum unemployment insurance benefit amount. (Option 5)

**UI benefits dependent allowance** ► The General Assembly could amend section § 60.2-602 of the Code of Virginia to modify the unemployment insurance benefit formula to create a dependent allowance that is tied to an economic metric or calculated as a portion of the individual's weekly benefit amount. (Option 6)

**Increasing UI taxable wage base** ► The General Assembly could amend § 60.2-229 of the Code of Virginia to increase the unemployment insurance taxable wage base. (Option 8)

**Increasing minimum UI employer tax rate** ► The General Assembly could amend § 60.2-531 of the Code of Virginia to increase the minimum base unemployment insurance tax rate for all employers, to a new rate between 0.01 percent and 0.07 percent. (Option 9)

**Increasing maximum base UI employer tax rate** ► The General Assembly could amend § 60.2-531 of the Code of Virginia to increase the maximum base unemployment insurance tax rate. (Option 10)