

HCS HB 163 -- EXTENDED UNEMPLOYMENT COMPENSATION BENEFITS

SPONSOR: Fisher

COMMITTEE ACTION: Voted "do pass" by the Committee on Workforce Development and Workplace Safety by a vote of 13 to 0.

In order for Missouri to receive recently approved additional federal extended unemployment benefit funds, this substitute changes the laws regarding unemployment compensation. Currently, "extended benefit period" as it relates to unemployment compensation benefits means a period which begins with the third week after a week for which there is a state "on" indicator, as determined by the Director of the Division of Employment Security within the Department of Labor and Industrial Relations, and ends on the third week after the first week for which there is a state "off" indicator or other specified conditions. The substitute removes the provision which limits the period for a state "on" indicator from extending beyond March 3, 2011, when 100% federal sharing is available under Public Law 111-5, Section 2005(a) and specifies that there is a state "on" indicator beginning after the date of enactment of the Tax Relief, Unemployment Insurance Reauthorization, and Job Creation Act of 2010, Public Law 111-312, and ending on or before the last day allowable by the act when the average rate of total unemployment in the state (seasonally adjusted), as determined by the United States Secretary of Labor, for the most recent three-month period for which data for all states are published equals or exceeds 110% of the average for any or all of the corresponding three-month periods ending in the three preceding calendar years.

The substitute contains an emergency clause.

FISCAL NOTE: No impact on state funds in FY 2012, FY 2013, and FY 2014.

PROPOSERS: Supporters say that the bill does not extend the length of time an unemployed worker may receive extended benefits. The current extended benefits period is set to expire in March 2011. The bill ensures that unemployed workers who are eligible for extended benefits beyond the March 2011 are able to collect their benefits. The extension is paid solely through federal funds. Missourians have contributed to the federal unemployment fund and failing to pass the bill will result in Missouri losing these federal funds.

Testifying for the bill were Representative Fisher; Associated General Contractors of Missouri; Missouri Department of Labor and Industrial Relations; Associated Industries of Missouri; Missouri Retailers Association; Missouri Grocers' Association; Associated

Builders and Contractors; National Federation of Independent Business; Missouri AFL-CIO; United Steelworkers District 11; Carpenters' District Council of Greater St. Louis and Vicinity; and Missouri National Education Association.

OPPONENTS: There was no opposition voiced to the committee.