

REVENUE: No revenue impact

FISCAL: Fiscal statement issued

Action:	Do Pass as Amended and Be Printed Engrossed
Vote:	8 - 0 - 2
Yeas:	Barton, Edwards C., Esquivel, Holvey, Kennemer, Matthews, Witt, Schaufler
Nays:	0
Exc.:	Cameron, Thatcher
Prepared By:	Theresa Van Winkle, Administrator
Meeting Dates:	4/16

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES: Extends the maximum amount of weeks in which a qualified worker can receive Work Share benefits from 26 to 52 weeks. Declares an emergency, effective upon passage.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Overview of the Employment Department's Work Share Program
- Whether there is need for a sunset clause
- Potential for employee to be forced to live with reduced wages

EFFECT OF COMMITTEE AMENDMENT: Replaces the measure.

BACKGROUND: The state's Work Share program offers an alternative for laying off employees by reducing the workweek, with eligible employees receiving a percentage of unemployment insurance (UI) benefits equal to the percentage of the reduction in their workweek. Participating businesses must reduce the normal weekly hours of work and wages at least 20 percent and no more than 40 percent, and the plan must cover at least three employees with the plan lasting no more than one year.

Currently, a worker can receive 26 weeks of Work Share benefits. HB 3140-A extends the maximum amount of weeks a worker can receive benefits to 52 weeks.