

**REVENUE:** No revenue impact

**FISCAL:** Fiscal statement issued

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<b>Action:</b>	Do Pass the A-Engrossed Measure
<b>Vote:</b>	4 - 0 - 1
<b>Yeas:</b>	George, Monnes Anderson, Prozanski, Rosenbaum
<b>Nays:</b>	0
<b>Exc.:</b>	Telfer
<b>Prepared By:</b>	Jeremy Sarant, Administrator
<b>Meeting Dates:</b>	5/11

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**WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:** Extends maximum amount of weeks in which qualified worker can receive Workshare unemployment compensation benefits from 26 to 52. Declares an emergency; effective upon passage.

**ISSUES DISCUSSED:**

- Uncertainty and range of possible fiscal impact
- Employment Department's outreach efforts to inform businesses about program

**EFFECT OF COMMITTEE AMENDMENT:** No amendment.

**BACKGROUND:** The state's Workshare program offers an alternative to laying off employees by allowing employers to reduce the weekly hours of work, with eligible employees receiving a percentage of unemployment insurance (UI) benefits equal to the percentage of the reduction in their weekly hours of work. 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 may receive up to 26 weeks of Workshare benefits. House Bill 3140A extends the maximum duration a worker can receive benefits to 52 weeks.