

REVENUE: No revenue impact

FISCAL: Fiscal statement issued

Action: Do Pass
Vote: 5 - 0 - 1
Yeas: Atkinson, Edwards, Girod, Starr, Beyer
Nays: 0
Exc.: Burdick
Prepared By: Richard Berger, Administrator
Meeting Dates: 3/3, 3/31

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES: Authorizes the Director of the Employment Department to waive recovery of benefits paid erroneously if Director finds recovery of benefits would be against equity and good conscience. Allows an administrative law judge to reopen a hearing upon a benefits claim if a party shows good cause for failing to appear. Declares emergency, effective on passage.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Concerns that the measure does not specify a maximum amount of erroneously paid benefits the Director of the Employment Department is allowed to waive
- Need to limit forcing individuals into several step appeal process
- Easier to get a hearing reopened so cases can be judged on the merits

EFFECT OF COMMITTEE AMENDMENT: No amendment.

BACKGROUND: Current statute authorizes the Director of the Employment Department to waive recovery of benefits paid erroneously in several cases. Senate Bill 725 specifies that the Director may also waive recovery if it is found that recovery would be against equity and good conscience..