

REVENUE: No revenue impact

FISCAL: Minimal fiscal impact, no statement issued

Action: Do Pass

Vote: 10 - 0 - 0

Yeas: Barton, Fagan, Holvey, Kennemer, Matthews, Thatcher, Thompson, Weidner, Witt, Doherty

Nays: 0

Exc.: 0

Prepared By: Jan Nordlund, Administrator

Meeting Dates: 2/8, 2/15

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES: Allows Employment Department to use alternate definition of “base year” only if the alternate makes person eligible for receipt of unemployment insurance benefits.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Impact on benefit eligibility
- Confusion and cost of moving applicant from one invalid claim to another invalid claim

EFFECT OF COMMITTEE AMENDMENT: No amendment.

BACKGROUND: When a person files a claim for unemployment insurance benefits, the Employment Department looks back at the person’s “base year” to determine eligibility and the amount of benefits. The standard base year is the first four of the last five calendar quarters. If a person is not eligible for benefits using the standard definition of base year, the claim is denied. However, the Department must also determine if the person would be eligible using an alternate base year of the most recent four calendar quarters. If the person is not eligible using the alternate base year, the Department is required to send the person information about the denied claim. In 2012, the Department filed over 15,000 alternate base year claims that were denied.