

SB 5508

Employment Department

SB 5508 is the budget bill for the Employment Department. The mission of the Employment Department is to support business and promote employment.

The Subcommittee recommends a budget \$1,915,386,744 and 1,236.11 Full-Time Equivalent positions. The recommended budget maintains the Office of Administrative Hearings within the Employment Department.

Information technology initiatives in the budget as recommended include preliminary planning for modernization of information systems across the agency; security enhancements and upgrades to software and the employer payroll reporting systems; completion of the Office of Administrative Hearings Case Management System and software upgrades for reprogramming needs. Other packages are included to: continue efforts to detect and prevent benefit overpayments; continue job placement assistance to clients of other state agencies; meet projected caseload associated with the Trade Adjustment Act job placement and training program; improve customer flow and service in a limited number of regional Work Source centers; comply with federal guidelines related to overpayment recovery and the Work Share programs; incorporate updated revenue projections and grant awards; complete projects begun in the current biennium; and reallocate existing positions within the department.

The Subcommittee recommends that the agency report back in February 2016 on progress related to IT modernization, and on updates to Key Performance Measures that

better reflect federal standards and requirements. The agency is also expected to develop a measure for the Workforce and Economic Research division.

The Transportation and Economic Development Subcommittee recommends SB 5508 be amended by the –1 amendment and be reported out do pass, as amended.