

HB 2660 -1 STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

House Committee On Business and Labor

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Meeting Dates: 2/4

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

Prohibits specified employers from advising or communicating a conclusion to an employee about unemployment insurance eligibility. Requires specified employers to provide employees with information provided by Employment Department to employer regarding benefit eligibility. Allows specified employers to provide employees with any other information approved by Department regarding benefit eligibility. Allows eligible, unemployed maintenance and janitorial employees of public or nonprofit educational institutions of higher education to receive unemployment benefits during summer breaks, customary vacation periods, and holiday recesses. Declares emergency, effective on passage.

REVENUE: May have revenue impact, but statement not yet issued.

FISCAL: May have fiscal impact, but statement not yet issued.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

-1 Removes emergency clause. Provides that any provision of Act or related administrative rule to be no longer in effect if determined to be out of conformity with federal laws .

REVENUE: May have revenue impact, but statement not yet issued.

FISCAL: May have fiscal impact, but statement not yet issued.

BACKGROUND:

The unemployment insurance (UI) program has special provisions that apply to people who work for public and nonprofit educational institutions, generally restricting employees from receiving UI benefits during school breaks, including summer break. Federal law affords little flexibility to states in applying those laws to employees performing instructional, research or principal administrative work (“instructional work”), but provides more flexibility on their application to people who perform other types of services, such as bus drivers, janitorial workers and school nurses.

House Bill 2660 allows janitorial and maintenance employees of public and nonprofit educational institutions to receive unemployment insurance during school breaks, vacations, and holidays if standard eligibility requirements are met.

For employers who directly reimburse the Employment Department for benefits paid to former employees, House Bill 2660 specifies what information can and cannot be provided to employees regarding benefit eligibility. Employers who reimburse are either a nonprofit, state or local government, or an Indian tribe.