

HB 2660 A -A3 STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

Senate Committee On Workforce

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Meeting Dates: 4/16

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

Allows eligible, unemployed maintenance and janitorial employees of public and nonprofit educational institutions and institutions of higher education to receive unemployment benefits during summer breaks, customary vacation periods, and holiday recesses. Prohibits employers who directly reimburse unemployment insurance benefits from advising or communicating a conclusion to an employee about unemployment insurance eligibility. Requires reimbursable employers to provide employees with information provided by Employment Department to employer regarding benefit eligibility. Allows reimbursable employers to provide employees with any other information approved by Department regarding benefit eligibility. Provides that any provision of Act or related administrative rule, if determined to be out of conformity with federal laws, will no longer be in effect. Takes effect 91st day following sine die.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

-A3 Prohibits employer from telling an employee they are ineligible for benefits in absence of Employment Department eligibility determination. Narrows application of measure to state and local governments.

BACKGROUND:

The unemployment insurance (UI) program has special provisions applying to people who work for 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, but provides greater flexibility on their application to people who perform other types of services, such as bus drivers, janitorial workers, and school nurses.

House Bill 2660-A allows janitorial and maintenance employees of public and nonprofit educational institutions to receive unemployment insurance, if standard eligibility requirements are met, during school breaks, vacations, and holidays in situations where the employee has a reasonable assurance of returning to work after the break.

For employers who directly reimburse the Employment Department for unemployment insurance benefits paid to former employees, House Bill 2660-A 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.