

**HB 2660 A STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY**

Carrier: Rep. Schouten

**House Committee On Business and Labor****Action Date:** 03/04/19**Action:** Do pass with amendments. (Printed A-Eng.)**Vote:** 7-4-0-0**Yeas:** 7 - Barker, Bynum, Clem, Doherty, Evans, Fahey, Holvey**Nays:** 4 - Barreto, Boles, Bonham, Boshart Davis**Fiscal:** Fiscal impact issued**Revenue:** Revenue impact issued**Prepared By:** Jan Nordlund, LPRO Analyst**Meeting Dates:** 2/4, 3/4**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.

**ISSUES DISCUSSED:**

- Effect of inaccurate information shared by employer regarding benefit eligibility
- Year-round employment of janitorial and maintenance staff
- Impact on school district budgets
- Benefit eligibility requirements to actively seek employment and willingness to accept offer
- Likelihood of school furloughing worker if benefits must be reimbursed

**EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:**

Removes emergency clause. 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.

**BACKGROUND:**

The unemployment insurance (UI) program has special provisions that apply 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.