

**HB 2660 B STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY****Carrier:** Sen. Frederick**Senate Committee On Workforce****Action Date:** 04/25/19**Action:** Do pass with amendments to the A-Eng bill. (Printed B-Eng.)**Vote:** 5-0-0-0**Yeas:** 5 - Golden, Hansell, Knopp, Monnes Anderson, Taylor**Fiscal:** Fiscal impact issued**Revenue:** Revenue impact issued**Prepared By:** Ellen Osoinach, LPRO Analyst**Meeting Dates:** 4/16, 4/25**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. Requires state and political subdivisions of state to provide employees with information provided by Director of Employment Department regarding benefit eligibility. Allows same employers to provide employees with any other information approved by Director regarding benefit eligibility. Prohibits same employers from informing employee that they are ineligible for benefits unless Director has determined ineligibility. Provides that any provision of Act or related administrative rule determined to be out of conformity with federal laws will no longer be in effect. Takes effect 91st day following adjournment sine die.

**ISSUES DISCUSSED:**

- Standard eligibility requirements for unemployment insurance benefits
- Difference between janitorial and other service employees
- Certain employers directly incur costs of providing unemployment benefits

**EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:**

Replaces prohibition against nonprofit, Indian tribe, state, or its political subdivisions communicating a conclusion regarding benefits eligibility with a prohibition against state and political subdivisions of state informing employees of benefit ineligibility in absence of determination by Director of Employment Department.

**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-B 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 the state and its political subdivisions, House Bill 2660-B requires that any information about eligibility for benefits that is provided by the Department to the employer shall be given to the employee. The measure also prohibits these same employers from informing the employee that they are ineligible unless the Director has determined such.