

HB 2271 A STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

Carrier: Rep. Wright

House Committee On Revenue

Action Date: 06/16/25

Action: Do pass with amendments. (Printed A-Eng.)

Vote: 7-0-0-0

Yeas: 7 - Hudson, Levy B, Marsh, Nathanson, Reschke, Smith G, Walters

Fiscal: Has minimal fiscal impact

Revenue: Revenue impact issued

Prepared By: Michael Doughty, Economist

Meeting Dates: 3/4, 6/16

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

Creates a nonrefundable tax credit against employers' unemployment insurance payroll taxes for calendar year 2025. Determines the tax credit is available for employers who have a tax rate in 2025 at least two and one-half percentage points less than in 2024. Limits the credit to employers who had an experience-based unemployment insurance payroll tax rate for calendar year 2020. Limits the credit to employers who did not have a payroll tax rate where the tax rate calculation included the transfer or trade for another business in calendar years beginning on or after January 1, 2021. Limits the credit to employers who file all wage reports and pay all taxes for calendar years 2024 and 2025 in a timely manner. Limits the credit to employers who have paid, or are complying with terms of payment for, all outstanding unemployment insurance tax related obligations as of January 1, 2025. Sets the tax credit for calendar year 2025 to taxes due for that year not exceeding \$5,000. Determines tax credits less than \$100 in any calendar year are not allowed. Repeals the establishment of the credit January 2, 2027.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Relationship to HB 3389 (2021) and a possible increase to some employers' payroll taxes
- Discussion of underlying Unemployment Insurance payroll tax formula
- Discussion of the impact on the Unemployment Department Trust Fund and tax rates

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

Repeals the content of the bill for drafting purposes.

Modifies the eligibility requirement for the percentage point decrease in an employers payroll tax rate from 2024 to 2025 to two and one-half percentage points. Allows the credit for calendar year 2025. Modifies the repeal date of the establishment of the credit to January 2, 2027.

BACKGROUND:

In 2021, HB 3389 was passed to provide relief to employers from higher unemployment insurance tax rates caused by the large number of unemployment insurance claims during the COVID-19 pandemic. A provision of this bill held employers' experience ratings, which are used to determine their tax rates, at the same level used to determine their 2020 tax rates. This was done for tax years 2022 through 2024. Without this provision, some employers may have improved their experience ratings and lowered their tax rate for part, or all, of the tax years from 2022 to 2024. HB 2271 addresses this issue through the creation of a tax credit.