

SENATE BILL REPORT

SB 6074

AS PASSED SENATE, FEBRUARY 18, 1992

**Brief Description:** Providing additional unemployment insurance benefits.

**SPONSORS:** Senators Conner, Owen, Sutherland, Snyder, Amondson, Anderson, Bauer, McMullen and Erwin

**SENATE COMMITTEE ON COMMERCE & LABOR**

**Majority Report:** Do pass and be referred to Committee on Ways & Means.

Signed by Senators Matson, Chairman; Anderson, Vice Chairman; Bluechel, McCaslin, McDonald, McMullen, Moore, Murray, and Skratek.

**Staff:** Forrest Bathurst (786-7429)

**Hearing Dates:** February 3, 1992; February 5, 1992

**SENATE COMMITTEE ON WAYS & MEANS**

**Majority Report:** Do pass.

Signed by Senators McDonald, Chairman; Craswell, Vice Chairman; Amondson, Bailey, Bauer, Bluechel, Cantu, Metcalf, Murray, Newhouse, Niemi, Owen, Saling, Talmadge, West, and Wojahn.

**Staff:** Steve Jones (786-7715)

**Hearing Dates:** February 6, 1992; February 10, 1992

**BACKGROUND:**

In 1991, the Legislature extended unemployment compensation for unemployed forest products workers. Unemployed workers in timber impact counties and unemployed forest products workers in all counties are eligible for the program. Workers must participate in approved training. Persons who meet the eligibility requirements and have exhausted their regular unemployment benefits on or after July 27, 1991 may receive a total of 52 weeks of benefits including regular state unemployment benefits and extended timber benefits.

**SUMMARY:**

Extended timber unemployment compensation benefits are available to eligible workers who have a benefit year beginning after January 1, 1989.

**Appropriation:** none

**Revenue:** none

**Fiscal Note:** available

**Effective Date:** The bill contains an emergency clause and takes effect immediately.

**TESTIMONY FOR (Commerce & Labor):**

The reachback is very critical to timber workers seeking retraining that were not grandfathered into the original ESSB 5555.

**TESTIMONY AGAINST (Commerce & Labor):** None

**TESTIFIED (Commerce & Labor):** PRO: Kaye Masco, Patricia Sweeney, Skamania County; Graeme Sackrison, Employment Security; Gregg Dohrn, DSHS, Governor's Timber Team; Renee Lynch, citizen; Harriette Buchmann, Clallam County Commissioners; Herbert Macmillan, Grays Harbor College

**TESTIMONY FOR (Ways & Means):**

The bill implements the original legislative intent of the 1991 Timber Assistance Act by retroactively extending unemployment benefits to timber workers. Over 600 workers will be helped by this assistance, which will have only minimal impact on the unemployment insurance trust fund.

**TESTIMONY AGAINST (Ways & Means):** None

**TESTIFIED (Ways & Means):** Senator Paul Conner (pro); Graeme Sackrison, Employment Security Department (pro)