

HB 3278 - H AMD 939

By Representative Conway

ADOPTED 2/14/2006

1 Strike everything after the enacting clause and insert the
2 following:

3 "NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** The legislature hereby recognizes that
4 the joint legislative task force on unemployment insurance benefit
5 equity has undertaken a comprehensive review of the unemployment
6 insurance system, but has not yet reached agreement on its findings
7 and recommendations. The legislature therefore intends to extend
8 the deadline by which the task force must report to the legislature.

9 **Sec. 2.** 2005 c 133 s 9 (uncodified) is amended to read as
10 follows:

11 (1)(a) The joint legislative task force on unemployment
12 insurance benefit equity is established. The joint legislative task
13 force shall consist of the following members:

14 (i) The chair and ranking minority member of the senate labor,
15 commerce, research and development committee;

16 (ii) The chair and ranking minority member of the house
17 commerce and labor committee;

18 (iii) Four members representing business, selected from
19 nominations submitted by statewide business organizations
20 representing a cross-section of industries and appointed jointly by
21 the president of the senate and the speaker of the house of
22 representatives; and

23 (iv) Four members representing labor, selected from nominations
24 submitted by statewide labor organizations representing a cross-
25 section of industries and appointed jointly by the president of the
26 senate and the speaker of the house of representatives.

27 (b) In addition, the employment security department shall
28 cooperate with the task force and maintain a liaison
29 representative, who shall be a nonvoting member. The department

1 shall cooperate with the task force and provide information as the
2 task force may reasonably request.

3 (2) The task force shall review the unemployment insurance
4 system, including, but not limited to, whether the benefit
5 structure provides for equitable benefits, whether the structure
6 fairly accounts for changes in the work force and industry work
7 patterns, including seasonality, and for claimants' annual work
8 patterns, whether the tax structure provides for an equitable
9 distribution of taxes, and whether the trust fund is adequate in
10 the long term.

11 (3)(a) The task force shall use legislative facilities, and
12 staff support shall be provided by senate committee services and
13 the house of representatives office of program research. The task
14 force may hire additional staff with specific technical expertise
15 if such expertise is necessary to carry out the mandates of this study.

16 (b) Legislative members of the task force shall be reimbursed for
17 travel expenses in accordance with RCW 44.04.120. Nonlegislative
18 members, except those representing an employer or organization, are
19 entitled to be reimbursed for travel expenses in accordance with
20 RCW 43.03.050 and 43.03.060.

21 (c) The expenses of the task force shall be paid jointly by the
22 senate and the house of representatives.

23 (5) The task force shall report its findings and
24 recommendations to the legislature by (~~January~~) March 1, 2006.

25 (6) This section expires July 1, 2006."

EFFECT: Extends the deadline by which the Joint Legislative
Task Force on Unemployment Insurance Benefit Equity must report
to the Legislature from January 1, 2006, to March 1, 2006.