
ENGROSSED HOUSE BILL 3278

State of Washington 59th Legislature 2006 Regular Session

By Representatives Conway and Dickerson

Read first time 01/31/2006. Referred to Committee on Commerce & Labor.

1 AN ACT Relating to making adjustments in the unemployment insurance
2 system to enhance benefit and tax equity; amending 2005 c 133 s 9
3 (uncodified); and creating a new section.

4 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF WASHINGTON:

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

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

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

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

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

1 (iii) Four members representing business, selected from nominations
2 submitted by statewide business organizations representing a cross-
3 section of industries and appointed jointly by the president of the
4 senate and the speaker of the house of representatives; and

5 (iv) Four members representing labor, selected from nominations
6 submitted by statewide labor organizations representing a cross-section
7 of industries and appointed jointly by the president of the senate and
8 the speaker of the house of representatives.

9 (b) In addition, the employment security department shall cooperate
10 with the task force and maintain a liaison representative, who shall be
11 a nonvoting member. The department shall cooperate with the task force
12 and provide information as the task force may reasonably request.

13 (2) The task force shall review the unemployment insurance system,
14 including, but not limited to, whether the benefit structure provides
15 for equitable benefits, whether the structure fairly accounts for
16 changes in the work force and industry work patterns, including
17 seasonality, and for claimants' annual work patterns, whether the tax
18 structure provides for an equitable distribution of taxes, and whether
19 the trust fund is adequate in the long term.

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

25 (b) Legislative members of the task force shall be reimbursed for
26 travel expenses in accordance with RCW 44.04.120. Nonlegislative
27 members, except those representing an employer or organization, are
28 entitled to be reimbursed for travel expenses in accordance with RCW
29 43.03.050 and 43.03.060.

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

32 ~~((+5))~~ (4) The task force shall report its findings and
33 recommendations to the legislature by ~~((January))~~ March 1, 2006.

34 ~~((+6))~~ (5) This section expires July 1, 2006.

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