
Commerce & Labor Committee

HB 2769

Brief Description: Providing unemployment compensation during labor disputes.

Sponsors: Representatives Nelson, Hasegawa, Green, Wood, Williams, Moeller, Conway, Appleton, Sullivan, Kenney, Hudgins, Simpson and Ormsby.

Brief Summary of Bill

- Deletes the provision that disqualifies employees in a multi-employer bargaining unit from unemployment compensation benefits when the employees have been locked out following a strike against one of the employers in the bargaining unit.

Hearing Date: 1/22/08

Staff: Jill Reinmuth (786-7134).

Background:

Before 1987 employees engaged in a labor dispute with their employer, whether on strike or locked out by the employer, were disqualified from receiving unemployment benefits if the unemployment was due to a "stoppage of work" at the workplace. A 1987 law allowing locked out employees to receive benefits under certain conditions expired in December 1987.

During the 1987 interim, the Joint Select Committee on Labor-Management Relations (Committee) reviewed the unemployment insurance labor dispute disqualification. The Committee recommended that locked out employees, except certain employees locked out in a multi-employer bargaining unit, not be disqualified. The Committee's recommendation was enacted in 1988.

Locked out employees are now qualified for unemployment compensation benefits unless the lockout occurs in a multi-employer bargaining unit after one of the employers in the bargaining unit has been struck by its employees.

Summary of Bill:

This analysis was prepared by non-partisan legislative staff for the use of legislative members in their deliberations. This analysis is not a part of the legislation nor does it constitute a statement of legislative intent.

The provision is deleted that disqualifies employees in a multi-employer bargaining unit from unemployment compensation benefits when the employees have been locked out following a strike against one of the employers in the bargaining unit.

Rules Authority: The bill does not address the rule-making powers of an agency.

Appropriation: None.

Fiscal Note: Requested on January 16, 2008.

Effective Date: The bill takes effect 90 days after adjournment of session in which bill is passed.