

SS SCS HCS HB 163 -- UNEMPLOYMENT COMPENSATION

This bill specifies that a claimant will be ineligible for waiting week credit or benefits for any week that he or she has an outstanding penalty which was assessed based upon an overpayment of benefits and reduces the maximum total amount of benefits payable to any insured worker during any benefit year from the lesser of 26 times his or her weekly benefit amount or 33 1/3% of his or her wage credits to the lesser of 20 times his or her weekly benefit amount or 33 1/3% of his or her wage credits.

In order for Missouri to receive recently approved additional extended federal unemployment benefit funds until August 28, 2013, the bill changes the laws regarding unemployment compensation. Currently, "extended benefit period" as it relates to unemployment compensation benefits means a period which begins with the third week after a week for which there is a state "on" indicator, as determined by the Director of the Division of Employment Security within the Department of Labor and Industrial Relations, and ends on the third week after the first week for which there is a state "off" indicator or other specified conditions. The bill removes the provision which limits the period for a state "on" indicator from extending beyond March 3, 2011, when 100% federal sharing is available under Public Law 111-5, Section 2005(a) and specifies that there is a state "on" indicator beginning after the date of enactment of the Tax Relief, Unemployment Insurance Reauthorization, and Job Creation Act of 2010, Public Law 111-312, and ending on or before the last day allowable by the act when the average rate of total unemployment in the state (seasonally adjusted), as determined by the United States Secretary of Labor, for the most recent three-month period for which data for all states are published equals or exceeds 110% of the average for any or all of the corresponding three-month periods ending in the three preceding calendar years.

The bill contains an emergency clause.