

HCS HB 1544 -- UNEMPLOYMENT COMPENSATION

SPONSOR: Fisher (125)

COMMITTEE ACTION: Voted "do pass" by the Special Committee on Workforce Development and Workplace Safety by a vote of 9 to 0.

This substitute extends the state's eligibility to receive federal extended unemployment benefit money to provide unemployed individuals compensation beyond the current unemployment benefit period that ended December 5, 2009. The state is eligible to receive this money until the week ending four weeks prior to the last week of unemployment for which 100% federal sharing is available under the provisions of Public Law 111-5, Section 2005(a) of the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009, commonly known as the federal economic stimulus act.

The substitute contains an emergency clause.

FISCAL NOTE: No impact on state funds in FY 2011, FY 2012, and FY 2013.

PROPOSERS: Supporters say that the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 provided 100% funding for extended unemployment compensation for unemployed workers for weeks of unemployment beginning on or after February 1, 2009, and ending on or before December 5, 2009. New federal legislation extends this program through February 28, 2010. The bill is necessary to extend Missouri's participation in the federal program. Currently, the program has paid 25,000 unemployed workers in Missouri \$78.3 million.

Testifying for the bill were Representative Fisher (125); Department of Labor and Industrial Relations; Associated Industries of Missouri; United Steelworkers District 11; Missouri AFL-CIO; Missouri Federation of Teachers and School-Related Personal; Missouri National Education Association; Missouri Retailers Association; and Missouri Grocers' Association.

OPPOSERS: There was no opposition voiced to the committee.