

## HB 1441 -- WORKERS' COMPENSATION AND UNEMPLOYMENT BENEFITS

SPONSOR: Fisher

COMMITTEE ACTION: Voted "do pass by consent" by the Committee on Workforce Development and Workplace Safety by a vote of 12 to 0.

This bill allows the Division of Workers' Compensation within the Department of Labor and Industrial Relations to send certain required notifications regarding workers' compensation claims in a manner determined by the division including by electronic means, registered or certified mail, or regular mail.

Currently, a claimant for unemployment benefits who is able to work but receiving benefits because the claimant is enrolled in a retraining program must submit with each claim a written certification verifying that the claimant is enrolled in and satisfactorily pursuing the retraining course. The bill requires the written certification to be submitted within 10 days of the end of each quarter. A claimant failing to submit written certification will be ineligible to receive benefits during any week claimed in that quarter or receive any further benefits until the written certification has been received by the division.

The bill repeals the requirement that an employer's contribution rate will be increased by a temporary debt indebtedness assessment each year.

The requirement that employers with 250 or more employees must file their quarterly wage report to the division electronically by magnetic media or the Internet is changed to require employers with 50 or more employees to file in that manner.

The division is authorized additional options to collect unpaid contributions, interest, or penalties imposed upon an employer under the Unemployment Compensation Law including serving the employer a notice of assessment for these amounts by certified or registered mail at the last known address and filing a certificate of lien with the recorder of deeds in the county in which the employer owns property or has a place of business.

FISCAL NOTE: No impact on General Revenue Fund in FY 2013, FY 2014, and FY 2015. Estimated Net Income on Other State Funds of \$75,000 in FY 2013, FY 2014, and FY 2015.

PROPOSERS: Supporters say that the bill corrects some past drafting errors and saves money for the department by authorizing more efficient, up-to-date procedures, such as electronic filing, and the use of certified mail without a return receipt.

Testifying for the bill were Representative Fisher; Department of Labor and Industrial Relations; United Steelworkers District 11; Missouri AFL-CIO; and Missouri Chamber of Commerce and Industry.

OPPONENTS: There was no opposition voiced to the committee.