

SCS SB 90 -- EMPLOYMENT SECURITY

SPONSOR: Libla (Andrews)

COMMITTEE ACTION: Voted "Do Pass" by the Special Committee on Small Business by a vote of 6 to 0. Voted "Do Pass" by the Standing Committee on Rules- Legislative Oversight by a vote of 9 to 0.

This bill modifies various provisions relating to employment security.

This bill specifies that a person claiming unemployment benefits is required to make three work search contacts during any week in which such benefits are claimed.

The bill additionally modifies the following provisions to either require or allow for communication with the Division of Employment Security through electronic means:

(1) All employers of 50 or more workers are required to report quarterly wage information to the division in an electronic format prescribed by the division, provided that, if good cause is shown, the director may permit filing in paper form;

(2) Any notice, determination, decision, or other paper required in Chapter 288, RSMo, may be transmitted solely by electronic means, unless an alternative manner is requested; and

(3) Any function required to be performed by the division may be performed by a computer or other automated means.

The records of the division shall constitute prima facie evidence of the date of the electronic transmission of any notice, determination, or other paper electronically transmitted in Chapter 288.

Currently, the Division of Employment Security is required to send certain notices to employers personally or by registered mail to the last known principal place of business of the employer. This amendment modifies those provisions by requiring such notice to be served by certified mail directed to the last known address of the employer, except in the case of any notice of the assessment of contributions, interest, or penalties after an original assessment of contributions, interest, or penalties are not paid when due, in which case further notice may be sent by mail to the last known address of the employer.

This bill is similar to SB 228, HB 277, HB 278, HB 371, and HB 373

(2019).

PROPONENTS: Supporters say that this bill will benefit claimants, employers, as well as the department. The department will save money on labor and postage. The labor that would be saved could be used in another area of the department. This bill will allow the department to electronically communicate and help the department become more efficient.

Testifying for the bill were Senator Libla; Missouri Chamber of Commerce and Industry; and the Department of Labor.

OPPONENTS: There was no opposition voiced to the committee.