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ENGROSSED SENATE BILL 5920

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State of Washington

53rd Legislature

1993 Regular Session

By Senator Vognild

Read first time 02/25/93. Referred to Committee on Labor & Commerce.

1 AN ACT Relating to unemployment insurance deductions; creating new  
2 sections; making an appropriation; and providing an expiration date.

3 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF WASHINGTON:

4 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** The employment security department shall  
5 undertake a pilot project to encourage workers drawing unemployment  
6 insurance benefits to seek employment opportunities by allowing a  
7 control group in one job service center to keep a greater portion of  
8 their weekly benefits when engaged in part-time or temporary  
9 employment. It is the intent of this project to return unemployment  
10 insurance beneficiaries to full-time employment in the job marketplace  
11 in order to positively impact the unemployment insurance trust fund.

12 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** For the purposes of section 1 of this act,  
13 the employment security department shall designate:

14 (1) The job service center in which the pilot project is to be  
15 undertaken; and

16 (2) The number of participants and the criteria for participation  
17 in the project.

1        NEW SECTION.    **Sec. 3.**    For the purposes of the pilot project  
2 created under section 1 of this act, the following requirements for  
3 defining "unemployment" and level of unemployment insurance benefit  
4 deductions is as follows:

5        (1)(a) An individual shall be deemed to be "unemployed" in any week  
6 during which the individual performs no services and with respect to  
7 which no remuneration is payable to the individual, or in any week of  
8 less than full time work, if the remuneration payable to the individual  
9 with respect to such week is less than one and one-half times the  
10 individual's weekly benefit amount plus fifteen dollars.    The  
11 commissioner shall prescribe regulations applicable to unemployed  
12 individuals making such distinctions in the procedures as to such types  
13 of unemployment as the commissioner deems necessary.

14        (b) An individual shall be deemed not to be "unemployed" during any  
15 week which falls totally within a period during which the individual,  
16 pursuant to a collective bargaining agreement or individual employment  
17 contract, is employed full time in accordance with a definition of full  
18 time contained in the agreement or contract, and for which compensation  
19 for full time work is payable.    This subsection may not be applied  
20 retroactively to an individual who had no guarantee of work at the  
21 start of such period and subsequently is provided additional work by  
22 the employer; and

23        (2) If an eligible individual is available for work for less than  
24 a full week, he or she shall be paid his or her weekly benefit amount  
25 reduced by one-seventh of such amount for each day that he or she is  
26 unavailable for work.    However, if he or she is unavailable for work  
27 for three days or more of a week, he or she shall be considered  
28 unavailable for the entire week.

29        Each eligible individual who is unemployed in any week shall be  
30 paid with respect to such week a benefit in an amount equal to his or  
31 her weekly benefit amount less sixty-six and two-thirds percent of that  
32 part of the remuneration, if any, payable to him or her with respect to  
33 such week which is in excess of fifteen dollars.    Such benefit, if not  
34 a multiple of one dollar, shall be reduced to the next lower multiple  
35 of one dollar.

36        NEW SECTION.    **Sec. 4.**    The employment security department shall  
37 report to the legislature on the impact of the pilot project created

1 under section 1 of this act by December 31, 1996. The department shall  
2 report on:

3 (1) The impact of the project on the unemployment insurance trust  
4 fund; and

5 (2) Individuals participating in the project.

6 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 5.** The sum of two hundred thousand dollars, or  
7 as much thereof as may be necessary, is appropriated for the biennium  
8 ending June 30, 1995, from the unemployment insurance funds provided  
9 under RCW 50.24.014 designated for use by the joint task force on  
10 unemployment insurance created under section 22, chapter 483, Laws of  
11 1993, to the employment security department for the purposes of this  
12 act.

13 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 6.** This act applies to weeks of unemployment  
14 beginning after January 1, 1995.

15 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 7.** This act shall expire July 1, 1997.

16 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 8.** If any part of this act is found to be in  
17 conflict with federal requirements that are a prescribed condition to  
18 the allocation of federal funds to the state or the eligibility of  
19 employers in this state for federal unemployment tax credits, the  
20 conflicting part of this act is hereby declared to be inoperative  
21 solely to the extent of the conflict, and such finding or determination  
22 shall not affect the operation of the remainder of this act. The rules  
23 under this act shall meet federal requirements that are a necessary  
24 condition to the receipt of federal funds by the state or the granting  
25 of federal unemployment tax credits to employers in this state.

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