

# SENATE BILL REPORT

## HB 2339

---

---

As of February 14, 2012

**Title:** An act relating to unemployment insurance benefit charging relief for part-time employers who continue to employ a claimant on a part-time basis and the claimant qualified for two consecutive claims with wages attributable to at least one employer who employed the claimant in both base years.

**Brief Description:** Providing unemployment insurance benefit charging relief for part-time employers who continue to employ a claimant on a part-time basis and the claimant qualified for two consecutive claims with wages attributable to at least one employer who employed the claimant in both base years.

**Sponsors:** Representatives Sells, Condotta, Reykdal, Taylor and Springer.

**Brief History:** Passed House: 2/09/12, 97-0.

**Committee Activity:** Labor, Commerce & Consumer Protection: 2/16/12.

---

### SENATE COMMITTEE ON LABOR, COMMERCE & CONSUMER PROTECTION

**Staff:** Mac Nicholson (786-7445)

**Background:** The unemployment compensation system provides partial wage replacement for individuals who are unemployed through no fault of their own. Generally, benefits are payable to individuals who are unemployed and who meet other eligibility requirements. Each covered employer is required to pay contributions on a percentage of the employer's taxable payroll, except for certain employers who reimburse the Employment Security Department (ESD) for benefits the agency pays to the employers' former workers. For most covered taxable employers, contribution rates are determined by the combined rate assigned to the employer based on layoff experience, social costs, and the solvency surcharge, if any.

Unemployment insurance benefits paid to employees must be charged back to the separating employer. Certain benefits paid to employees will not be charged to the employer and will be socialized among all rate-paying employers. Additionally, an employer can request benefit charge relief in limited circumstances, provided the request is made in writing to ESD within 30 days of the initial determination of the unemployment claim.

**Summary of Bill:** An employer may request benefit charge relief when benefits are paid to an individual who:

---

*This analysis was prepared by non-partisan legislative staff for the use of legislative members in their deliberations. This analysis is not a part of the legislation nor does it constitute a statement of legislative intent.*

- continues to be employed on a regularly scheduled permanent part-time basis; and
- qualified for two consecutive unemployment claims where wages were attributable to at least one employer who employed the individual in both base years.

Benefit charge relief ends when the employment relationship between the employer requesting relief and the claimant ends. Benefit charge relief granted in the legislation is not available to shared work employers.

**Appropriation:** None.

**Fiscal Note:** Available.

**Committee/Commission/Task Force Created:** No.

**Effective Date:** The bill takes effect on January 1, 2013.