



General Assembly

February Session, 2012

**Raised Bill No. 5402**

LCO No. 1686

\*01686\_\_\_\_\_LAB\*

Referred to Committee on Labor and Public Employees

Introduced by:  
(LAB)

**AN ACT ESTABLISHING A TASK FORCE TO EXAMINE  
UNEMPLOYMENT COMPENSATION.**

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Assembly convened:

1 Section 1. (*Effective from passage*) (a) There is established a task force  
2 to study unemployment compensation benefits in the state. The task  
3 force shall determine whether such benefits should be adjusted, and  
4 whether any such adjustments would jeopardize federal funding. In  
5 making such determination, the task force shall consider: (1) Whether  
6 the amount of unemployment compensation received by an individual  
7 could be reduced over the course of the benefit period, (2) the savings  
8 that could result from requiring individuals to wait a week prior to  
9 receiving benefits, (3) the savings that could result from updating the  
10 base period wages threshold for an individual to be eligible for  
11 unemployment compensation benefits to two thousand dollars or  
12 more, (4) the savings that could result from adjusting the base period  
13 wages for an individual to be eligible to receive unemployment  
14 compensation benefits to a threshold based on an individual's  
15 completion of thirty days or more of employment with an employer,  
16 (5) the savings that could result from indexing the number of weeks of

17 benefits to be received by an individual to the state's unemployment  
18 rate, and (6) measures other states have taken to reduce the cost of  
19 unemployment compensation.

20 (b) The task force shall consist of the following members:

21 (1) One appointed by the speaker of the House of Representatives,  
22 who shall be a member of an organization representing state  
23 employees;

24 (2) One appointed by the president pro tempore of the Senate, who  
25 shall be a member of an organization representing private sector  
26 employees;

27 (3) One appointed by the majority leader of the House of  
28 Representatives, who shall be a member of an organization  
29 representing businesses with not more than ninety-nine employees;

30 (4) One appointed by the majority leader of the Senate, who shall be  
31 a member of an organization representing businesses with not more  
32 than forty-nine employees;

33 (5) One appointed by the minority leader of the House of  
34 Representatives, who shall be an expert on unemployment  
35 compensation in the state;

36 (6) One appointed by the minority leader of the Senate, who shall be  
37 a member of an organization representing businesses with one  
38 hundred or more employees;

39 (7) One appointed by the Governor; and

40 (8) The chairpersons and ranking members of the joint standing  
41 committee of the General Assembly having cognizance over matters  
42 related to labor, or their designees.

43 (c) All appointments to the task force shall be made not later than  
44 thirty days after the effective date of this section. Any vacancy shall be

45 filled by the appointing authority.

46 (d) The chairperson of the task force shall be the member appointed  
47 by the Governor. Such chairpersons shall schedule the first meeting of  
48 the task force, which shall be held not later than sixty days after the  
49 effective date of this section.

50 (e) The administrative staff of the Labor Department shall serve as  
51 administrative staff of the task force.

52 (f) Not later than February 1, 2013, the task force shall submit a  
53 report on its findings and recommendations to the joint standing  
54 committees of the General Assembly having cognizance of matters  
55 relating to labor in accordance with the provisions of section 11-4a of  
56 the general statutes. The task force shall terminate on the date that it  
57 submits such report.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	<i>from passage</i>	New section

**Statement of Purpose:**

To establish a task force to examine unemployment compensation benefits.

*[Proposed deletions are enclosed in brackets. Proposed additions are indicated by underline, except that when the entire text of a bill or resolution or a section of a bill or resolution is new, it is not underlined.]*