

February 2, 2012

The Honorable Susan Wagle, Chairperson
Senate Committee on Commerce
Statehouse, Room 135-E
Topeka, Kansas 66612

Dear Senator Wagle:

SUBJECT: Fiscal Note for SB 352 by Senate Committee on Commerce

In accordance with KSA 75-3715a, the following fiscal note concerning SB 352 is respectfully submitted to your committee.

SB 352 would make a variety of amendments to the state's employment security law.

1. Declare that all persons and employers are entitled to a neutral interpretation of the employment security law;
2. Remove the provision that establishes an alternative base period for calculation of unemployment benefits under the American Reinvestment and Recovery Act;
3. Change the definition of employment to reconcile with the definition enacted in Section 3 of 2011 HB 2135;
4. Update references throughout the law to reflect that the state's employment centers are managed by the Secretary of Commerce rather than the Secretary of Labor;
5. Amend conditions that disqualify someone from receiving unemployment benefits;
6. Allow for appeals of benefit decisions after the deadline if "excusable neglect" is demonstrated;
7. Allow a representative of the Department of Labor to file an appeal of a benefit decision;
8. Clarify the definition of "part-time employment" to be less than full-time employment;
9. Amend the section of the law related to political activity by employees of the Labor Department to coincide with activities allowed under the federal Hatch Act;
10. Amend the provision related to the interest rate Labor must pay employers for overpaid contributions so that it is equal to the rate the agency receives on its Unemployment Trust Fund; and

The Honorable Susan Wagle, Chairperson

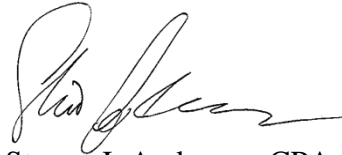
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11. Require all employers with 14 or more employees to file electronically all wage reports, contribution returns and payments due after June 30, 2012.

According to the Department of Labor, enactment of SB 352 would have a negligible effect on Department expenditures and no effect on agency revenues.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Steven J. Anderson", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Steven J. Anderson, CPA, MBA
Director of the Budget

cc: Kathie Sparks, Labor