HOUSE SUBSTITUTE

FOR

SENATE BILL NO. 966

AN ACT

To repeal sections 285.300, 288.030, 288.036, 288.038, 288.040, 288.050, 288.060, 288.110, 288.121, 288.128, 288.190, 288.290, 288.310, and 288.330, RSMo, and to enact in lieu thereof twenty new sections relating to

7 employees, with penalty provisions and an

8 emergency clause.

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BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF MISSOURI, AS FOLLOWS:

Section A. Section 285.300, 288.030, 288.036, 288.038, 288.040, 288.050, 288.060, 288.110, 288.121, 288.128, 288.190, 288.290, 288.310, and 288.330, RSMo, are repealed and twenty new sections enacted in lieu thereof, to be known as sections 285.300, 288.030, 288.036, 288.038, 288.040, 288.050, 288.060, 288.110, 288.121, 288.128, 288.175, 288.190, 288.290, 288.310, 288.330, 288.395, 288.397, 288.401, 1, and 2, to read as follows: 285.300. 1. Every employer doing business in the state shall require each newly hired employee to fill out a federal W-4 withholding form. A copy of each withholding form or an equivalent form containing data required by section 285.304 which may be provided in an electronic or magnetic format, shall be

sent to the department of revenue by the employer within twenty

days after the date the employer hires the employee or in the case of an employer transmitting a report magnetically or electronically, by two monthly transmissions, if necessary, not less than twelve days nor more than sixteen days apart. For purposes of this section, the date the employer hires the employee shall be the earlier of the date the employee signs the W-4 form or its equivalent, or the first date the employee reports to work, or performs labor or services. Such forms shall be forwarded by the department of revenue to the division of child support enforcement on a weekly basis and the information shall be entered into the database, to be known as the "State Directory of New Hires". The information reported shall be provided to the National Directory of New Hires established in 42 U.S.C. section 653, other state agencies or contractors of the division as required or allowed by federal statutes or The division of employment security shall crossregulations. check Missouri unemployment compensation recipients against any federal new hire database or any other database containing Missouri or other states' wage information which is maintained by the federal government on a weekly basis.

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- 2. Any employer that has employees who are employed in two or more states and transmits reports magnetically or electronically may comply with subsection 1 of this section by:
- (1) Designating one of the states in which the employer has employees as the designated state that such employer shall

transmit the reports; and

- 2 (2) Notifying the secretary of Health and Human Services of 3 such designation.
 - 288.030. 1. As used in this chapter, unless the context clearly requires otherwise:
 - (1) "Appeals tribunal" means a referee or a body consisting of three referees appointed to conduct hearings and make decisions on appeals from administrative determinations, petitions for reassessment, and claims referred pursuant to subsection 2 of section 288.070;
 - (2) "Base period" means the first four of the last five completed calendar quarters immediately preceding the first day of an individual's benefit year;
 - (3) "Benefit year" means the one-year period beginning with the first day of the first week with respect to which an insured worker first files an initial claim for determination of such worker's insured status, and thereafter the one-year period beginning with the first day of the first week with respect to which the individual, providing the individual is then an insured worker, next files such an initial claim after the end of the individual's last preceding benefit year;
 - (4) "Benefits" means the money payments payable to an insured worker, as provided in this chapter, with respect to such insured worker's unemployment;
 - (5) "Calendar quarter" means the period of three

consecutive calendar months ending on March thirty-first, June thirtieth, September thirtieth, or December thirty-first;

- (6) "Claimant" means an individual who has filed an initial claim for determination of such individual's status as an insured worker, a notice of unemployment, a certification for waiting week credit, or a claim for benefits;
- (7) "Commission" means the labor and industrial relations commission of Missouri;
- (8) "Common paymaster" means two or more related corporations in which one of the corporations has been designated to disburse remuneration to concurrently employed individuals of any of the related corporations;
- (9) "Contributions" means the money payments to the unemployment compensation fund required by this chapter, exclusive of interest and penalties;
- (10) "Decision" means a ruling made by an appeals tribunal or the commission after a hearing;
- (11) "Deputy" means a representative of the division designated to make investigations and administrative determinations on claims or matters of employer liability or to perform related work;
- (12) "Determination" means any administrative ruling made by the division without a hearing;
- (13) "Director" means the administrative head of the division of employment security;

(14) "Division" means the division of employment security which administers this chapter;

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- (15) "Employing unit" means any individual, organization, partnership, corporation, common paymaster, or other legal entity, including the legal representatives thereof, which has or, subsequent to June 17, 1937, had in its employ one or more individuals performing services for it within this state. All individuals performing services within this state for any employing unit which maintains two or more separate establishments within this state shall be deemed to be employed by a single employing unit for all the purposes of this chapter. Each individual engaged to perform or to assist in performing the work of any person in the service of an employing unit shall be deemed to be engaged by such employing unit for all the purposes of this chapter, whether such individual was engaged or paid directly by such employing unit or by such person, provided the employing unit had actual or constructive knowledge of the work;
- (16) "Employment office" means a free public employment office operated by this or any other state as a part of a state controlled system of public employment offices including any location designated by the state as being a part of the one-stop career system;
- (17) "Equipment" means a motor vehicle, straight truck, tractor, semi-trailer, full trailer, any combination of these and any other type of equipment used by authorized carriers in the

transportation of property for hire;

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- (18) "Fund" means the unemployment compensation fund established by this chapter;
- (19) "Governmental entity" means the state, any political subdivision thereof, any instrumentality of any one or more of the foregoing which is wholly owned by this state and one or more other states or political subdivisions and any instrumentality of this state or any political subdivision thereof and one or more other states or political subdivisions;
- (20) "Initial claim" means an application, in a form prescribed by the division, made by an individual for the determination of the individual's status as an insured worker;
- (21) "Insured work" means employment in the service of an employer;
- (22) (a) As to initial claims filed after December 31, 1990, but before January 1, 2005, "insured worker" means a worker who has been paid wages for insured work in the amount of one thousand dollars or more in at least one calendar quarter of such worker's base period and total wages in the worker's base period equal to at least one and one-half times the insured wages in that calendar quarter of the base period in which the worker's insured wages were the highest, or in the alternative, a worker who has been paid wages in at least two calendar quarters of such worker's base period and whose total base period wages are at least one and one-half times the maximum taxable wage base,

taxable to any one employer, in accordance with [subdivision (1)] subsection 2 of section 288.036.

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- (b) As to initial claims filed after December 31, 2004,

 "insured worker" means a worker who has been paid wages for

 insured work in the amount of one thousand five hundred dollars

 or more in at least one calendar quarter of such worker's base

 period and total wages in the worker's base period equal to at

 least one and one-half times the insured wages in that calendar

 quarter of the base period in which the worker's insured wages

 were the highest, or in the alternative, a worker who has been

 paid wages in at least two calendar quarters of such worker's

 base period and whose total base period wages are at least one

 and one-half times the maximum taxable wage base, taxable to any

 one employer, in accordance with subsection 2 of section 288.036.
- (c) For the purposes of this [definition] <u>subdivision</u>,

 "wages" shall be considered as wage credits with respect to any
 benefit year, only if such benefit year begins subsequent to the
 date on which the employing unit by which such wages were paid
 has become an employer;
- (23) "Lessor", in a lease, means the party granting the use of equipment, with or without a driver to another;
- (24) "Misconduct", means an act of wanton or willful disregard of the employer's interest, a deliberate violation of the employer's rules, a disregard of standards of behavior which the employer has the right to expect of his or her employee, or negligence in such degree or recurrence as to manifest

- culpability, wrongful intent or evil design, or show an
 intentional and substantial disregard of the employer's interest
 or of the employee's duties and obligations to the employer;
 - (25) "Referee" means a representative of the division designated to serve on an appeals tribunal;

- [(25)] (26) "State" includes, in addition to the states of the United States of America, the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, the Virgin Islands, and the Dominion of Canada;
- [(26)] (27) "Temporary help firm", means a firm that hires its own employees and assigns them to clients to support or supplement the clients' workforce in work situations such as employee absences, temporary skill shortages, seasonal workloads, and special assignments and projects;
- (28) "Temporary employee", means an employee assigned to work for the clients of a temporary help firm;
- (29) (a) An individual shall be deemed "totally unemployed" in any week during which the individual performs no services and with respect to which no wages are payable to such individual;
- (b) An individual shall be deemed "partially unemployed" in any week of less than full-time work if the wages payable to such individual for such week do not equal or exceed the individual's weekly benefit amount plus twenty dollars;
- (c) An individual's "week of unemployment" shall begin the first day of the calendar week in which the individual registers

at an employment office except that, if for good cause the individual's registration is delayed, the week of unemployment shall begin the first day of the calendar week in which the individual would have otherwise registered. The requirement of registration may by regulation be postponed or eliminated in respect to claims for partial unemployment or may by regulation be postponed in case of a mass layoff due to a temporary cessation of work;

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- [(27)] (30) "Waiting week" means the first week of unemployment for which a claim is allowed in a benefit year or if no waiting week has occurred in a benefit year in effect on the effective date of a shared work plan, the first week of participation in a shared work unemployment compensation program pursuant to section 288.500.
- 2. The Missouri average annual wage shall be computed as of June thirtieth of each year, and shall be applicable to the following calendar year. The Missouri average annual wage shall be calculated by dividing the total wages reported as paid for insured work in the preceding calendar year by the average of mid-month employment reported by employers for the same calendar year. The Missouri average weekly wage shall be computed by dividing the Missouri average annual wage as computed in this subsection by fifty-two.
- 288.036. 1. "Wages" means all remuneration, payable or paid, for personal services including commissions and bonuses

and, except as provided in subdivision [(8)] (7) of this section, the cash value of all remuneration paid in any medium other than cash. Gratuities, including tips received from persons other than the employing unit, shall be considered wages only if required to be reported as wages pursuant to the Federal Unemployment Tax Act, 26 U.S.C. Sec. 3306, and shall be, for the purposes of this chapter, treated as having been paid by the employing unit. Severance pay shall be considered as wages [to the extent required pursuant to the Federal Unemployment Tax Act, 26 U.S.C. Section 3306(b)]. Vacation pay and holiday pay shall be considered as wages for the week with respect to which it is payable. The term "wages" shall not include:

(1) [For the purposes of determining the amount of contributions due and contribution rates, that part of the remuneration for employment paid to an individual by an employer or the employer's predecessors which is in excess of seven thousand dollars for the calendar years 1988 through 1992, seven thousand five hundred dollars for the calendar year 1993, eight thousand five hundred dollars for the calendar years 1994, 1995 and 1996, eight thousand dollars for calendar year 1997, and eight thousand five hundred dollars for the calendar year 1998, and the state taxable wage base as determined in subsection 2 of this section for calendar year 1999, and each calendar year thereafter, unless that part of the remuneration is subject to a tax pursuant to a federal law imposing a tax against which credit

may be taken for contributions required to be paid into a state unemployment fund; except that:

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- (a) In addition to the taxable wage, as defined in this subdivision, if on December 31, 1995, or on any December thirty-first thereafter, the balance in the unemployment insurance trust fund, less any federal advances, is less than one hundred million dollars, then the amount of the taxable wage then in effect shall be increased by five hundred dollars for all succeeding calendar years;
- (b) If on December 31, 1995, or any December thirty-first thereafter, the balance in the unemployment insurance trust fund, less any federal advances, is two hundred and fifty million dollars or more, then the amount of the taxable wage then in effect shall be reduced by five hundred dollars, but not below that part of the remuneration which is subject to a tax pursuant to a federal law imposing a tax against which credit may be taken for contributions required to be paid into a state unemployment fund;
- (2) The amount of any payment made (including any amount paid by an employing unit for insurance or annuities, or into a fund, to provide for any such payment) to, or on behalf of, an individual under a plan or system established by an employing unit which makes provision generally for individuals performing services for it or for a class or classes of such individuals, on account of:

- (a) Sickness or accident disability, but in case of payments made to an employee or any of the employee's dependents this paragraph shall exclude from the term "wages" only payments which are received pursuant to a workers' compensation law; or
- (b) Medical and hospitalization expenses in connection with sickness or accident disability; or
 - (c) Death;

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- [(3)] (2) The amount of any payment on account of sickness or accident disability, or medical or hospitalization expenses in connection with sickness or accident disability, made by an employing unit to, or on behalf of, an individual performing services for it after the expiration of six calendar months following the last calendar month in which the individual performed services for such employing unit;
- [(4)] (3) The amount of any payment made by an employing unit to, or on behalf of, an individual performing services for it or his or her beneficiary:
- (a) From or to a trust described in 26 U.S.C. 401(a) which is exempt from tax pursuant to 26 U.S.C. 501(a) at the time of such payment unless such payment is made to an employee of the trust as remuneration for services rendered as such an employee and not as a beneficiary of the trust; or
- (b) Under or to an annuity plan which, at the time of such payments, meets the requirements of section 404(a)(2) of the Federal Internal Revenue Code (26 U.S.C.A. Sec. 404);

[(5)] (4) The amount of any payment made by an employing unit (without deduction from the remuneration of the individual in employment) of the tax imposed pursuant to section 3101 of the Federal Internal Revenue Code (26 U.S.C.A. Sec. 3101) upon an individual with respect to remuneration paid to an employee for domestic service in a private home or for agricultural labor;

- [(6)] (5) Remuneration paid in any medium other than cash to an individual for services not in the course of the employing unit's trade or business;
- [(7)] (6) Remuneration paid in the form of meals provided to an individual in the service of an employing unit where such remuneration is furnished on the employer's premises and at the employer's convenience, except that remuneration in the form of meals that is considered wages and required to be reported as wages pursuant to the Federal Unemployment Tax Act, 26 U.S.C. Sec. 3306 shall be reported as wages as required thereunder;
- [(8)] (7) For the purpose of determining wages paid for agricultural labor as defined in paragraph (b) of subdivision (1) of subsection 12 of section 288.034 and for domestic service as defined in subsection 13 of section 288.034, only cash wages paid shall be considered;
- [(9)] (8) Beginning on October 1, 1996, any payment to, or on behalf of, an employee or the employee's beneficiary under a cafeteria plan, if such payment would not be treated as wages pursuant to the Federal Unemployment Tax Act.

The increases or decreases to the state taxable wage base for calendar year [1999] 2005, and each calendar year thereafter, shall be determined by the provisions within this subsection. On January 1, 2005, the state taxable wage base for calendar year [1999, and] 2005 shall be ten thousand dollars for the balance of the calendar year. The state taxable wage base for each calendar year thereafter[,] shall be determined by the preceding September thirtieth balance of the unemployment compensation trust fund, less any outstanding federal Title XII advances received pursuant to section 288.330, or if the fund is not utilizing moneys advanced by the federal government, then less the principal, interest, and administrative expenses related to credit instruments issued under section 288.330, or the principal, interest, and administrative expenses related to financial agreements under subdivision (17) of subsection 2 of section 288.330, or the principal, interest, and administrative expenses related to a combination of credit instruments and financial agreements. When the September thirtieth unemployment compensation trust fund balance, less any outstanding federal Title XII advances received pursuant to section 288.330, is:

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- (1) Less than, or equal to, three hundred <u>fifty</u> million dollars, then the wage base shall increase by [five hundred] <u>one</u> thousand dollars; or
- (2) [Four] <u>Five</u> hundred [fifty] million or more, then the state taxable wage base for the subsequent calendar year shall be

decreased by five hundred dollars. In no event, however, shall the state taxable wage base increase beyond [ten] eleven thousand [five hundred] dollars, or decrease to less than seven thousand dollars.

For any calendar year, the state taxable wage base shall not be reduced to less than that part of the remuneration which is subject to a tax under a federal law imposing a tax against which credit may be taken for contributions required to be paid into a state unemployment compensation trust fund. Nothing in this section shall be construed to prevent the wage base from increasing or decreasing by increments of five hundred dollars.

288.038. With respect to initial claims filed during calendar [years 1998, 1999, 2000 and 2001] year 2005 and each calendar year thereafter, the "maximum weekly benefit amount" means four percent of the total wages paid to an eligible insured worker during [that quarter] the average of the two highest quarters of the worker's base period [in which the worker's wages were the highest], but the maximum weekly benefit amount shall not exceed [two hundred five dollars in the calendar year 1998, two hundred twenty dollars in the calendar year 1999, two hundred thirty-five dollars in the calendar year 2000, and] two hundred fifty dollars in the calendar [year 2001, and] years 2004 and 2005, two hundred sixty dollars for calendar years 2006 and 2007, and two hundred seventy dollars for calendar year 2008 and each

calendar year thereafter. If such benefit amount is not a multiple of one dollar, such amount shall be reduced to the nearest lower full dollar amount.

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- 288.040. 1. A claimant who is unemployed and has been determined to be an insured worker shall be eligible for benefits for any week only if the deputy finds that:
- (1) The claimant has registered for work at and thereafter has continued to report at an employment office in accordance with such regulations as the division may prescribe;
- (2) The claimant is able to work and is available for work.

 No person shall be deemed available for work unless such person has been and is actively and earnestly seeking work. Upon the filing of an initial or renewed claim, and prior to the filing of each weekly claim thereafter, the deputy shall notify each claimant of the number of work search contacts required to constitute an active search for work. No person shall be considered not available for work, pursuant to this subdivision, solely because he or she is a substitute teacher or is on jury duty. A claimant shall not be determined to be ineligible pursuant to this subdivision because of not actively and earnestly seeking work if:
- (a) The claimant is participating in training approved pursuant to Section 236 of the Trade Act of 1974, as amended, (19 U.S.C.A. Sec. 2296, as amended); or
 - (b) The claimant is temporarily unemployed through no fault

of his or her own and has a definite recall date within eight weeks of his or her first day of unemployment; however, upon application of the employer responsible for the claimant's unemployment, such eight-week period may be extended at the discretion of the director but shall not exceed sixteen weeks;

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- (3) The claimant has reported in person to an office of the division as directed by the deputy, but at least once every four weeks, except that a claimant shall be exempted from the reporting requirement of this subdivision if:
- (a) The claimant is claiming benefits in accordance with division regulations dealing with partial or temporary total unemployment; or
- (b) The claimant is temporarily unemployed through no fault of his or her own and has a definite recall date within eight weeks of his or her first day of unemployment; or
- (c) The claimant resides in a county with an unemployment rate, as published by the division, of ten percent or more and in which the county seat is more than forty miles from the nearest division office;
- (d) The director of the division of employment security has determined that the claimant belongs to a group or class of workers whose opportunities for reemployment will not be enhanced by reporting in person, or is prevented from reporting due to emergency conditions that limit access by the general public to an office that serves the area where the claimant resides, but

only during the time such circumstances exist. Ineligibility pursuant to this subdivision shall begin on the first day of the week which the claimant was scheduled to claim and shall end on the last day of the week preceding the week during which the claimant does report in person to the division's office;

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- (4) Prior to the first week of a period of total or partial unemployment for which the claimant claims benefits he or she has been totally or partially unemployed for a waiting period of one week. No more than one waiting week will be required in any benefit year. [The one-week waiting period shall become compensable after unemployment during which benefits are payable for nine consecutive weeks.] No week shall be counted as a week of total or partial unemployment for the purposes of this subsection unless it occurs within the benefit year which includes the week with respect to which the claimant claims benefits;
 - (5) The claimant has made a claim for benefits;
- (6) The claimant is participating in reemployment services, such as job search assistance services, as directed by the deputy if the claimant has been determined to be likely to exhaust regular benefits and to need reemployment services pursuant to a profiling system established by the division, unless the deputy determines that:
- (a) The individual has completed such reemployment services; or

(b) There is justifiable cause for the claimant's failure to participate in such reemployment services.

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- 2. A claimant shall be ineligible for waiting week credit or benefits for any week for which the deputy finds he or she is or has been suspended by his or her most recent employer for misconduct connected with his or her work. Suspensions of four weeks or more shall be treated as discharges.
- 3. (1) Benefits based on "service in employment", defined in subsections 7 and 8 of section 288.034, shall be payable in the same amount, on the same terms and subject to the same conditions as compensation payable on the basis of other service subject to this law; except that:
- (a) With respect to service performed in an instructional, research, or principal administrative capacity for an educational institution, benefits shall not be paid based on such services for any week of unemployment commencing during the period between two successive academic years or terms, or during a similar period between two regular but not successive terms, or during a period of paid sabbatical leave provided for in the individual's contract, to any individual if such individual performs such services in the first of such academic years (or terms) and if there is a contract or a reasonable assurance that such individual will perform services in any such capacity for any educational institution in the second of such academic years or terms;

(b) With respect to services performed in any capacity (other than instructional, research, or principal administrative capacity) for an educational institution, benefits shall not be paid on the basis of such services to any individual for any week which commences during a period between two successive academic years or terms if such individual performs such services in the first of such academic years or terms and there is a contract or a reasonable assurance that such individual will perform such services in the second of such academic years or terms;

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- and (b) of this subdivision, benefits shall not be paid on the basis of such services to any individual for any week which commences during an established and customary vacation period or holiday recess if such individual performed such services in the period immediately before such vacation period or holiday recess, and there is reasonable assurance that such individual will perform such services immediately following such vacation period or holiday recess;
- (d) With respect to services described in paragraphs (a) and (b) of this subdivision, benefits payable on the basis of services in any such capacity shall be denied as specified in paragraphs (a), (b), and (c) of this subdivision, to any individual who performed such services at an educational institution while in the employ of an educational service agency, and for this purpose the term "educational service agency" means

a governmental agency or governmental entity which is established and operated exclusively for the purpose of providing such services to one or more educational institutions.

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- paragraph (b) or (d) of subdivision (1) of this subsection, to any individual performing services at an educational institution in any capacity (other than instructional, research or principal administrative capacity), and such individual was not offered an opportunity to perform such services for the second of such academic years or terms, such individual shall be entitled to a retroactive payment of the compensation for each week for which the individual filed a timely claim for compensation and for which compensation was denied solely by reason of paragraph (b) or (d) of subdivision (1) of this subsection.
- 4. (1) A claimant shall be ineligible for waiting week credit, benefits or shared work benefits for any week for which he or she is receiving or has received remuneration exceeding his or her weekly benefit amount or shared work benefit amount in the form of:
- (a) Compensation for temporary partial disability pursuant to the workers' compensation law of any state or pursuant to a similar law of the United States;
- (b) A governmental or other pension, retirement or retired pay, annuity, or other similar periodic payment which is based on the previous work of such claimant to the extent that such

payment is provided from funds provided by a base period or chargeable employer pursuant to a plan maintained or contributed to by such employer; but, except for such payments made pursuant to the Social Security Act or the Railroad Retirement Act of 1974 (or the corresponding provisions of prior law), the provisions of this paragraph shall not apply if the services performed for such employer by the claimant after the beginning of the base period (or remuneration for such services) do not affect eligibility for or increase the amount of such pension, retirement or retired pay, annuity or similar payment.

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- (2) If the remuneration referred to in this subsection is less than the benefits which would otherwise be due, the claimant shall be entitled to receive for such week, if otherwise eligible, benefits reduced by the amount of such remuneration, and, if such benefit is not a multiple of one dollar, such amount shall be lowered to the next multiple of one dollar.
- (3) Notwithstanding the provisions of subdivisions (1) and (2) of this subsection, if a claimant has contributed in any way to the Social Security Act or the Railroad Retirement Act of 1974, or the corresponding provisions of prior law, no part of the payments received pursuant to such federal law shall be deductible from the amount of benefits received pursuant to this chapter.
- 5. A claimant shall be ineligible for waiting week credit or benefits for any week for which or a part of which he or she

has received or is seeking unemployment benefits pursuant to an unemployment insurance law of another state or the United States; provided, that if it be finally determined that the claimant is not entitled to such unemployment benefits, such ineligibility shall not apply.

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- (1) A claimant shall be ineligible for waiting week credit or benefits for any week for which the deputy finds that such claimant's total or partial unemployment is due to a stoppage of work which exists because of a labor dispute in the factory, establishment or other premises in which such claimant is or was last employed. In the event the claimant secures other employment from which he or she is separated during the existence of the labor dispute, the claimant must have obtained bona fide employment as a permanent employee for at least the major part of each of two weeks in such subsequent employment to terminate his or her ineligibility. If, in any case, separate branches of work which are commonly conducted as separate businesses at separate premises are conducted in separate departments of the same premises, each such department shall for the purposes of this subsection be deemed to be a separate factory, establishment or other premises. This subsection shall not apply if it is shown to the satisfaction of the deputy that:
 - (a) The claimant is not participating in or financing or directly interested in the labor dispute which caused the stoppage of work; and

(b) The claimant does not belong to a grade or class of workers of which, immediately preceding the commencement of the stoppage, there were members employed at the premises at which the stoppage occurs, any of whom are participating in or financing or directly interested in the dispute.

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- (2) "Stoppage of work" as used in this subsection means a substantial diminution of the activities, production or services at the establishment, plant, factory or premises of the employing unit. This definition shall not apply to a strike where the employees in the bargaining unit who initiated the strike are participating in the strike. Such employees shall not be eligible for [waiting week credit or] benefits during the period when the strike is in effect, regardless of diminution, unless the employer has been found guilty of an unfair labor practice by the National Labor Relations Board or a federal court of law for an act or actions preceding or during the strike.
- 7. On or after January 1, 1978, benefits shall not be paid to any individual on the basis of any services, substantially all of which consist of participating in sports or athletic events or training or preparing to so participate, for any week which commences during the period between two successive sport seasons (or similar periods) if such individual performed such services in the first of such seasons (or similar periods) and there is a reasonable assurance that such individual will perform such services in the later of such seasons (or similar periods).

8. Benefits shall not be payable on the basis of services performed by an alien, unless such alien is an individual who was lawfully admitted for permanent residence at the time such services were performed, was lawfully present for purposes of performing such services, or was permanently residing in the United States under color of law at the time such services were performed (including an alien who was lawfully present in the United States as a result of the application of the provisions of Section 212(d)(5) of the Immigration and Nationality Act).

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- (1) Any data or information required of individuals applying for benefits to determine whether benefits are not payable to them because of their alien status shall be uniformly required from all applicants for benefits.
- (2) In the case of an individual whose application for benefits would otherwise be approved, no determination that benefits to such individual are not payable because of such individual's alien status shall be made except upon a preponderance of the evidence.
- 288.050. 1. Notwithstanding the other provisions of this law, a claimant shall be disqualified for waiting week credit or benefits until after the claimant has earned wages for work insured pursuant to the unemployment compensation laws of any state equal to ten times the claimant's weekly benefit amount if the deputy finds:
 - (1) That the claimant has left work voluntarily without

good cause attributable to such work or to the claimant's employer[; except that]. A temporary employee of a temporary help firm will be deemed to have voluntarily quit employment if the employee does not contact the temporary help firm for reassignment prior to filing for benefits. Failure to contact the temporary help firm will not be deemed a voluntary quit unless the claimant has been advised of the obligation to contact the firm upon completion of assignments and that unemployment benefits may be denied for failure to do so. The claimant shall not be disqualified:

- (a) If the deputy finds the claimant quit such work for the purpose of accepting a more remunerative job which the claimant did accept and earn some wages therein;
- (b) If the claimant quit temporary work to return to such claimant's regular employer; or
- (c) If the deputy finds the individual quit work, which would have been determined not suitable in accordance with paragraphs (a) and (b) of subdivision (3) of this subsection, within twenty-eight calendar days of the first day worked;
- (d) As to initial claims filed after December 31, 1988, if the claimant presents evidence supported by competent medical proof that she was forced to leave her work because of pregnancy, notified her employer of such necessity as soon as practical under the circumstances, and returned to that employer and offered her services to that employer as soon as she was

physically able to return to work, as certified by a licensed and practicing physician, but in no event later than ninety days after the termination of the pregnancy. An employee shall have been employed for at least one year with the same employer before she may be provided benefits pursuant to the provisions of this paragraph;

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- (2) That the claimant has retired pursuant to the terms of a labor agreement between the claimant's employer and a union duly elected by the employees as their official representative or in accordance with an established policy of the claimant's employer; or
- apply for available suitable work when so directed by the deputy, or to accept suitable work when offered the claimant, either through the division or directly by an employer by whom the individual was formerly employed, or to return to the individual's customary self-employment, if any, when so directed by the deputy. An offer of work shall be conclusively established if an employer notifies the claimant in writing of such offer by sending an acknowledgment via any form of certified mail issued by the United States Postal Service stating such offer to the claimant at his or her last known address. Nothing in this subdivision shall be construed to limit the means by which the deputy may establish that the claimant has been sufficiently notified of available work.

In determining whether or not any work is suitable for an individual, the division shall consider, among other factors and in addition to those enumerated in paragraph (b) of this subdivision, the degree of risk involved to the individual's health, safety and morals, the individual's physical fitness and prior training, the individual's experience and prior earnings, the individual's length of unemployment, the individual's prospects for securing work in the individual's customary occupation, the distance of available work from the individual's residence and the individual's prospect of obtaining local work; except that, if an individual has moved from the locality in which the individual actually resided when such individual was last employed to a place where there is less probability of the individual's employment at such individual's usual type of work and which is more distant from or otherwise less accessible to the community in which the individual was last employed, work offered by the individual's most recent employer if similar to that which such individual performed in such individual's last employment and at wages, hours, and working conditions which are substantially similar to those prevailing for similar work in such community, or any work which the individual is capable of performing at the wages prevailing for such work in the locality to which the individual has moved, if not hazardous to such individual's health, safety or morals, shall be deemed suitable for the individual;

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(b) Notwithstanding any other provisions of this law, no work shall be deemed suitable and benefits shall not be denied pursuant to this law to any otherwise eligible individual for refusing to accept new work under any of the following conditions:

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- a. If the position offered is vacant due directly to a strike, lockout, or other labor dispute;
- b. If the wages, hours, or other conditions of the work offered are substantially less favorable to the individual than those prevailing for similar work in the locality;
- c. If as a condition of being employed the individual would be required to join a company union or to resign from or refrain from joining any bona fide labor organization.
- 2. [Notwithstanding the other provisions of this law,] If a deputy finds that a claimant has been discharged for misconduct connected with the claimant's work, such claimant[, depending upon the seriousness of the misconduct as determined by the deputy according to the circumstances in each case,] shall be disqualified for waiting week credit or benefits [for not less than four nor more than sixteen weeks for which the claimant claims benefits and is otherwise eligible], and no benefits shall be paid nor shall the cost of any benefits be charged against any employer for any period of employment within the base period until the claimant has earned wages for work insured under the unemployment laws of this state or any other state as prescribed

in this section. In addition to the disqualification for benefits pursuant to this provision the division may in the more aggravated cases of misconduct, cancel all or any part of the individual's wage credits, which were established through the individual's employment by the employer who discharged such individual, according to the seriousness of the misconduct. A disqualification provided for pursuant to this subsection shall not apply to any week which occurs after the claimant has earned wages for work insured pursuant to the unemployment compensation laws of any state in an amount equal to eight times the claimant's weekly benefit amount.

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- 3. [A pattern of] Absenteeism or tardiness may constitute misconduct regardless of whether the last incident alone [which results] resulting in the discharge constitutes misconduct.
- 4. Notwithstanding the provisions of subsection 1 of this section, a claimant may not be determined to be disqualified for benefits because the claimant is in training approved pursuant to section 236 of the Trade Act of 1974, as amended, (19 U.S.C.A. Sec. 2296, as amended), or because the claimant left work which was not "suitable employment" to enter such training. For the purposes of this subsection "suitable employment" means, with respect to a worker, work of a substantially equal or higher skill level than the worker's past adversely affected employment, and wages for such work at not less than eighty percent of the worker's average weekly wage as determined for the purposes of

the Trade Act of 1974.

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- 2 288.060. 1. All benefits shall be paid through employment 3 offices in accordance with such regulations as the division may 4 prescribe.
 - 2. Each eligible insured worker who is totally unemployed in any week shall be paid for such week a sum equal to his weekly benefit amount.
 - 3. Each eligible insured worker who is partially unemployed in any week shall be paid for such week a partial benefit. partial benefit shall be an amount equal to the difference between his or her weekly benefit amount and that part of his or <u>her</u> wages for such week in excess of [twenty] <u>forty</u> dollars, and, if such partial benefit amount is not a multiple of one dollar, such amount shall be reduced to the nearest lower full dollar [Termination pay, severance pay or] Provided further, however, that an individual shall be considered to be unemployed as to receipt of severance pay for any week the individual is registered at as well as attending any state institution of higher education or public secondary school. In addition, an individual shall be considered to be unemployed as to receipt of severance pay for any week the individual is registered at as well as attending a labor and industrial relations commission qualified vocational, educational, or training program that meets commission established minimum standards. The commission shall annually update and review the list of qualified programs. Pay

received by an eligible insured worker who is a member of the organized militia for training or duty authorized by section 502(a)(1) of Title 32, United States Code, [or who is an elected official] shall not be considered wages for the purpose of this subsection.

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The division shall compute the wage credits for each individual by crediting him or her with the wages paid to him or her for insured work during each quarter of his or her base period or twenty-six times his or her weekly benefit amount, whichever is the lesser. In addition, if a claimant receives wages in the form of termination pay or severance pay and such payment appears in a base period established by the filing of an initial claim, the claimant may, at his or her option, choose to have such payment included in the calendar quarter in which it was paid or choose to have it prorated equally among the quarters comprising the base period of the claim. The maximum total amount of benefits payable to any insured worker during any benefit year shall not exceed twenty-six times his or her weekly benefit amount, or thirty-three and one-third percent of his or her wage credits, whichever is the lesser. For the purpose of this section, wages shall be counted as wage credits for any benefit year, only if such benefit year begins subsequent to the date on which the employing unit by whom such wages were paid has become an employer. The wage credits of an individual earned during the period commencing with the end of a prior base period

and ending on the date on which he <u>or she</u> filed an allowed initial claim shall not be available for benefit purposes in a subsequent benefit year unless, in addition thereto, such individual has subsequently earned either wages for insured work in an amount equal to at least five times his <u>or her</u> current weekly benefit amount or wages in an amount equal to at least ten times his or her current weekly benefit amount.

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- 5. In the event that benefits are due a deceased person and no petition has been filed for the probate of the will or for the administration of the estate of such person within thirty days after his or her death, the division may by regulation provide for the payment of such benefits to such person or persons as the division finds entitled thereto and every such payment shall be a valid payment to the same extent as if made to the legal representatives of the deceased.
- 6. The division is authorized to cancel any benefit warrant remaining outstanding and unpaid one year after the date of its issuance and there shall be no liability for the payment of any such benefit warrant thereafter.
- 7. The division may establish an electronic funds transfer system to transfer directly to claimants' accounts in financial institutions benefits payable to them pursuant to this chapter. To receive benefits by electronic funds transfer, a claimant shall satisfactorily complete a direct deposit application form authorizing the division to deposit benefit payments into a

designated checking or savings account. Any electronic funds transfer system created pursuant to this subsection shall be administered in accordance with regulations prescribed by the division.

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8. The division may issue a benefit warrant covering more than one week of benefits.

288.110. Any individual, type of organization or employing unit which has acquired substantially all of the business of an employer, excepting in any such case any assets retained by such employer incident to the liquidation of his obligations, and in respect to which the division finds that immediately after such change such business of the predecessor employer is continued without interruption solely by the successor, shall stand in the position of such predecessor employer in all respects, including the predecessor's separate account, actual contribution and benefit experience, annual payrolls, and liability for current or delinquent contributions, interest and penalties. If two or more individuals, organizations, or employing units acquired at approximately the same time substantially all of the business of an employer (excepting in any such case any assets retained by such employer incident to the liquidation of his obligations) and in respect to which the division finds that immediately after such change all portions of such business of the predecessor are continued without interruption solely by such successors, each such individual, organization, or employing unit shall stand in

the position of such predecessor with respect to the proportionate share of the predecessor's separate account, actual contribution and benefit experience and annual payroll as determined by the portion of the predecessor's taxable payroll applicable to the portion of the business acquired, and each such individual, organization or employing unit shall be liable for current or delinquent contributions, interest and penalties of the predecessor in the same relative proportion. Further, any successor under this section which was not an employer at the time the acquisition occurred, shall pay contributions for the balance of the current rate year at the same contribution rate as the contribution rate of the predecessor whether such rate is more or less than two and seven-tenths percent, provided there was only one predecessor or there were only predecessors with identical rates. If the predecessors' rates were not identical, the division shall calculate a rate as of the date of acquisition applicable to the successor for the remainder of the rate year, which rate shall be based on the combined experience of all predecessor employers. In the event that any successor was, prior to an acquisition, an employer, and there is a difference in the contribution rate established for such calendar year applicable to any acquired or acquiring employer, the division shall make a recalculation [as of the date of acquisition] of the contribution rate applicable to any successor employer based upon the combined experience of all predecessor and successor

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employers[, which] as of the date of the acquisition, unless the
date of the acquisition is other than the first day of the
calendar quarter. If the date of any such acquisition is other
than the first day of the calendar quarter the division shall
make the recalculation of the rate on the first day of the next
calendar quarter after the acquisition. When the date of the
acquisition is other than the first day of a calendar quarter the
successor employer shall use its rate for the calendar quarter in
which the acquisition was made. The revised contribution rate
shall apply to employment after the [date of any such
acquisition] rate recalculation. For this purpose a calculation
date different from July first may be established. When the
division has determined that a successor or successors stand in
the position of a predecessor employer, the predecessor's
liability shall be terminated as of the date of the acquisition.

288.121. 1. On October first of each calendar year, if the average balance, less any federal advances, of the unemployment compensation trust fund of the four preceding quarters (September thirtieth, June thirtieth, March thirty-first and December thirty-first of the preceding calendar year) is less than four hundred fifty million dollars, then each employer's contribution rate calculated for the four calendar quarters of the succeeding calendar year shall be increased by the percentage determined from the following table:

Balance in Trust Fund

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2	Percentage
3	Less Than Equals or Exceeds
4	of Increase
5	[\$400,000,000] <u>\$450,000,000</u> [\$350,000,000] <u>\$400,000,000</u> 10%
6	[\$350,000,000] <u>\$400,000,000</u> [\$300,000,000] <u>\$350,000,000</u>
7	20%
8	[\$300,000,000] <u>\$350,000,000</u> 30%
9	[Notwithstanding the table in this section, each employer's
10	contribution rate calculated for the four calendar quarters of
11	calendar year 1994 shall be increased by forty percent, instead
12	of thirty percent, as previously indicated in the table in this
13	section. After the forty percent increase, each employer's
14	contribution rate for the four calendar quarters of calendar year
15	1994 shall be increased by adding three-tenths of one percent.]
16	Beginning on January 1, 2005, and continuing until such time as
17	the trust fund balance including any outstanding indebtedness, is
18	greater than or equal to zero the contribution rate of any
19	employer who is paying the maximum contribution rate of six
20	percent shall be increased by forty percent.
21	2. Effective January 1, 2005, an employer's total

2. Effective January 1, 2005, an employer's total contribution rate shall equal the employer's base rate plus a temporary solvency charge of one-tenth of one percent added to the base rate plus the increase authorized under subsection 1 of this section. The temporary solvency charge shall expire upon

the last day of the fourth calender quarter following the effective date of this section.

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In addition to all other contributions due 288.128. 1. under this chapter, if the fund is utilizing moneys advanced by the federal government under the provisions of 42 U.S.C.A., section 1321 pursuant to section 288.330[,] or if the fund is not utilizing moneys advanced by the federal government, then from the proceeds of credit instruments issued under section 288.330, or from the moneys advanced under financial agreements under subdivision (17) of subsection 2 of section 288.330, or a combination of credit instruments proceeds and moneys advanced under financial agreements each employer shall be assessed an amount solely for the payment of interest due on such federal advancements, or if the fund is not utilizing moneys advanced by the federal government, or in the case of issuance of credit instruments for the payment of the principal, interest, and administrative expenses related to such credit instruments, or in the case of financial agreements for the payment of principal, interest, and administrative expenses related to such financial agreements, or in the case of a combination of credit instruments and financial agreements for the payment of principal, interest, and administrative expenses for both. The rate shall be determined by dividing the interest due on federal advancements or if the fund is not utilizing moneys advanced by the federal government, then the principal, interest, and administrative

1 expenses related to credit instruments, or the principal, 2. interest, and administrative expenses related to financial agreements under subdivision (17) of subsection 2 of section 3 288.330, or the principal, interest, and administrative expenses 4 5 related to a combination of credit instruments and financial agreements by ninety-five percent of the total taxable wages paid 6 7 by all Missouri employers in the preceding calendar year. 8 employer's proportionate share shall be the product obtained by multiplying such employer's total taxable wages for the preceding 9 10 calendar year by the rate specified in this section. Each 11 employer shall be notified of the amount due under this section 12 by June thirtieth of each year and such amount shall be 13 considered delinquent thirty days thereafter. The moneys collected from each employer for the payment of interest due on 14 federal advances or if the fund is not utilizing moneys advanced 15 16 by the federal government, then the payment of principal, 17 interest, and administrative expenses related to credit 18 instruments, or the payment of the principal, interest, and 19 administrative expenses related to financial agreements under 20 subdivision (17) of subsection 2 of section 288.330, or the payment of the principal, interest, and administrative expenses 21 22 related to a combination of credit instruments and financial 23 agreements shall be deposited in the special employment security fund. 24

2. If on December thirty-first of any year the money

collected under this section exceeds the amount of interest due on federal advancements by one hundred thousand dollars or more, then each employer's experience rating account shall be credited with an amount which bears the same ratio to the excess moneys collected under this section as that employer's payment collected under this section bears to the total amount collected under this section. Further, if on December thirty-first of any year the moneys collected under this section exceed the amount of interest due on the federal advancements by less than one hundred thousand dollars, the balance shall be transferred from the special employment security fund to the Secretary of the Treasury of the United States to be credited to the account of this state in the unemployment trust fund.

2.

288.175. 1. As used in this section the following terms shall mean:

- (1) "Debt", any established overpayment or sum past due that is legally owed and enforceable under the Missouri employment security law, which has accrued through contract or operation of law and which has become final under state law and remains uncollected;
- (2) "Debtor", any individual, sole proprietorship,
 partnership, corporation, limited liability company, or other
 legal entity owning a debt.
- 2. Notwithstanding any other provisions to the contrary, the division may collect any debt by interception of the debtor's

federal income tax refund, in the manner and to the extent allowed by federal law.

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288.190. 1. The director shall designate an impartial referee or referees to hear and decide disputed determinations, claims referred pursuant to subsection 2 of section 288.070, and petitions for reassessment. No employee of the division shall participate on behalf of the division in any case in which the division employee is an interested party.

The manner in which disputed determinations, referred 2. . claims, and petitions for reassessment shall be presented and the conduct of hearings shall be in accordance with regulations prescribed by the division for determining the rights of the parties, whether or not such regulations conform to common law or statutory rules of evidence and other technical rules of procedure. When the same or substantially similar evidence is relevant and material to the matters in issue in claims by more than one individual or in claims by a single individual in respect to two or more weeks of unemployment, the same time and place for considering each such claim or claims may be fixed, hearings thereon jointly conducted, a single record of the proceedings made, and evidence introduced with respect to one proceeding considered as introduced in the others, if in the judgment of the appeals tribunal or the commission having jurisdiction of the proceeding such consolidation would not be prejudicial to any party. A full and complete record shall be

kept of all proceedings in connection with a disputed determination, referred claim, or petition for reassessment. The appeals tribunal shall include in the record and consider as evidence all records of the division that are material to the issues. All testimony at any hearing shall be recorded but need not be transcribed unless the matter is further appealed.

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Unless an appeal on a disputed determination or referred claim is withdrawn, an appeals tribunal, after affording the parties reasonable opportunity for fair hearing, shall affirm, modify, or reverse the determination of the deputy, or shall remand the matter to the deputy with directions. In addition, in any case wherein the appellant, after having been duly notified of the date, time, and place of the hearing, shall fail to appear at such hearing, the appeals tribunal may enter an order dismissing the appeal. The director may transfer to another appeals tribunal the proceedings on an appeal determination before an appeals tribunal. The parties shall be duly notified of an appeals tribunal's decision or order, together with its reason therefor, which shall be deemed to be the final decision or order of the division unless, within thirty days after the date of notification or mailing of such decision, further appeal is initiated pursuant to section 288.200; except that, within thirty days of either notification or mailing of the appeals tribunal's decision or order, the appeals tribunal, on its own motion, may reconsider any decision or order when it appears that

such reconsideration is essential to the accomplishment of the object and purpose of this law.

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- Unless a petition for reassessment is withdrawn or is allowed without a hearing, the petitioners shall be given a reasonable opportunity for a fair hearing before an appeals tribunal upon each such petition. The appeals tribunal shall promptly notify the interested parties of its decision upon such petition together with its reason therefor. In addition, in any case wherein the appellant, after having been duly notified of the date, time, and place of the hearing, shall fail to appear at such hearing, the appeals tribunal may enter an order dismissing the appeal. In the absence of the filing of an application for review of such decision, the decision, whether it results in a reassessment or otherwise, shall become final thirty days after the date of notification or mailing thereof; except that, within thirty days of either notification or mailing of the appeals tribunal's decision or order, the appeals tribunal, on its own motion, may reconsider any decision or order when it appears that such reconsideration is essential to the accomplishment of the object and purposes of this law.
 - 5. Any party subject to any decision of an appeals tribunal pursuant to this chapter has a right to counsel and the right to designate a representative, including but not limited to, a certified public accountant or human resource professional to represent the party at any hearing and shall be notified prior to

a hearing conducted pursuant to this chapter that a decision of the appeals tribunal is presumptively conclusive for the purposes of this chapter as provided in section 288.200.

2.

288.290. 1. There is hereby established as a special fund, separate and apart from all public moneys or funds of this state, an "Unemployment Compensation Fund", which shall be administered by the division exclusively for the purposes of this law. This fund shall consist of:

- (1) All contributions and payments in lieu of contributions collected under this law;
 - (2) Interest earned upon any moneys in the fund;
- (3) Any property or securities acquired through the use of moneys belonging to the fund;
 - (4) All earnings of such property or securities;
- (5) All voluntary contributions permitted under the law; and
 - (6) All funds set aside or appropriated by the Congress of the United States or any federal agency, to be deposited to the fund. All moneys in the funds shall be mingled and undivided, except that all money credited to this state's account in the Unemployment Trust Fund pursuant to Section 903 of the Social Security Act, as amended, and which has been appropriated for expenses of administration, shall be used only for the purposes set out in subsection 5 of this section and shall not be included in the cash balance in the unemployment compensation fund for the

- purposes of sections 288.100 and 288.113 to 288.126.
 - 2. The director shall designate a treasurer and custodian of the fund and he <u>or she</u> shall administer the fund and shall issue his <u>or her</u> warrants upon it in accordance with such regulations as the director shall prescribe. He <u>or she</u> shall maintain within the fund three separate accounts:
 - (1) A clearing account;

- (2) An unemployment trust fund account; and
- (3) A benefit account.
- To ensure that employment trust fund moneys are utilized only for the purpose authorized no other fund shall be established with increased employer taxes that are offset by a reduction of unemployment contributions, except for the special employment security fund created in section 288.310.
- 3. All moneys payable to the fund, upon their receipt by the division, shall immediately be deposited in the clearing account. Refunds of contributions or payments made necessary under the provisions of sections 288.140 and 288.340 may be paid from the clearing account or the benefit account. After clearance, all moneys in the clearing account shall be immediately deposited with the Secretary of the Treasury of the United States of America to the credit of the account of this state in the Unemployment Trust Fund, established and maintained pursuant to Section 904 of the Social Security Act, as amended, any provisions of law in this state relating to the deposit,

administration, release, or disbursement of state moneys in the possession or custody of the state treasurer to the contrary The benefit account shall consist of all moneys notwithstanding. requisitioned from the Missouri account in the federal Unemployment Trust Fund. Except as otherwise provided, moneys in the clearing and benefit accounts may be deposited in any bank or public depositary in which general funds of the state may be deposited, but no public deposit insurance charge or premium shall be paid out of the fund. Moneys in the clearing and benefit accounts shall not be commingled with other state funds but shall be maintained in separate accounts on the books of the depositary bank. All funds required by this law to be deposited in any state depositary shall be secured by such depositary to the same extent and in the same manner as is or may hereafter be required by section 30.270, RSMo, and all the amendments thereto; provided, that the division shall do those acts directed to be done by the governor, attorney general and state treasurer, or any of them, under section 30.270, RSMo, which are not inconsistent with the other provisions of this law. Collateral pledged for this purpose shall be kept separate and distinct from any collateral pledged to secure other funds of the state, or, if combined, shall be first used to satisfy and make whole the accounts herein established. The treasurer shall give a separate bond conditioned upon the faithful performance of his duties as custodian of the fund in an amount not to exceed twenty-five

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thousand dollars and in the form prescribed by law or approved by the attorney general. Premiums for such bonds shall be paid from the administration fund. All sums recovered for losses sustained by the fund shall be deposited therein.

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Moneys shall be requisitioned from the Missouri account in the federal Unemployment Trust Fund solely for the payment of benefits or for refunds of contributions or payments in lieu of contributions in accordance with regulations prescribed by the director, except that money credited to this state's account pursuant to Section 903 of the Social Security Act, as amended, shall be used exclusively as provided in subsection 5 of this The director shall from time to time requisition from section. the federal Unemployment Trust Fund such amounts, not exceeding the amounts standing to the Missouri account therein, as he deems necessary for the payment of benefits and refunds for a reasonable future period. Upon its receipt the treasurer shall deposit such money in the benefit account and shall issue his warrants for the payment of benefits solely from such benefit Expenditures of such moneys in the benefit account and refunds from the clearing account shall not be subject to any provisions of law requiring specific appropriations or other formal release by state officers of moneys belonging to this state in their custody. All warrants issued by the treasurer for the payment of benefits and refunds shall bear the signature of the treasurer and the countersignature of the director or other

duly authorized division representative. Any balance of moneys requisitioned from the federal Unemployment Trust Fund which remains unclaimed or unpaid in the benefit account after the expiration of the period for which such sums were requisitioned shall either be deducted from estimates for, and may be utilized for the payment of, benefits during succeeding periods, or, in the discretion of the director, shall be redeposited with the Secretary of the Treasury of the United States of America to the credit of the Missouri account in the federal Unemployment Trust Fund as provided in subsection 3 of this section.

2.

- 5. (1) Money credited to the account of this state in the Unemployment Trust Fund by the Secretary of the Treasury of the United States of America pursuant to Section 903 of the Social Security Act, as amended, may be requisitioned and used for the payment of expenses incurred for the administration of this law pursuant to a specific appropriation by the legislature, provided that the expenses are incurred and the money is requisitioned as needed after the enactment of an appropriation law which:
- (a) Specifies the purpose for which such money is appropriated and the amounts appropriated therefor;
- (b) Limits the period within which such money may be obligated to a period ending not more than two years after the date of the enactment of the appropriation law; and
- (c) Limits the amount which may be obligated during a twelve-month period beginning on July first and ending on the

next June thirtieth to an amount which does not exceed the amount by which the aggregate of the amount transferred to the account of this state in the Unemployment Trust Fund pursuant to subsections (a) and (b) of Section 903 of the Social Security Act, as amended, exceeds the aggregate of the amounts used by this state pursuant to this subsection and charged against the amounts transferred to the account of this state in the Unemployment Trust Fund.

2.

- (2) The use of the money referred to in subdivision (1) of this subsection shall be accounted for in accordance with standards established by the Secretary of Labor.
- (3) For purposes of subdivision (1) of this subsection, amounts used by this state for administration shall be chargeable against transferred amounts at the exact time the obligation is entered into.
- (4) Money credited to the account of this state pursuant to Section 903 of the Social Security Act, as amended, may not be withdrawn or used except for the payment of benefits and for the payment of expenses for the administration of this law and of public employment offices pursuant to this subsection.
- (5) Money appropriated as provided under subdivision (1) of this subsection for the payment of expenses of administration shall be requisitioned as needed for the payment of obligations incurred under such appropriation and, upon requisition, shall be deposited in the unemployment compensation administration fund

from which such payments shall be made. Money so deposited shall, until expended, remain a part of the unemployment compensation fund and, if it will not be expended, shall be returned promptly to the account of this state in the Unemployment Trust Fund.

2.

- (6) Money credited to the account of the state in the federal Unemployment Trust Fund by the Secretary of the Treasury of the United States of America pursuant to Title 42, Section 903 of the Social Security Act with respect to the federal fiscal years 1999, 2000 and 2001, shall be used solely for the administration of the unemployment compensation program.
- 6. The provisions of subsections 1, 2, 3, 4, and 5 of this section, to the extent that they relate to the federal Unemployment Trust Fund, shall be operative only so long as such federal Unemployment Trust Fund continues to exist and so long as the Secretary of the Treasury of the United States of America continues to maintain a separate book account of all funds deposited therein by contributions from employers of this state for benefit purposes, and by money credited pursuant to Section 903 of the Social Security Act, as amended, together with a proportionate share of the earnings apportioned to the Missouri account of such federal Unemployment Trust Fund, from which no other state is permitted to make or authorize withdrawals. If and when such Unemployment Trust Fund ceases to exist, or such separate book account is no longer maintained, all moneys,

properties, or securities therein belonging to the unemployment compensation fund of this state shall be transferred to the treasurer of the unemployment compensation fund, who shall hold, invest, transfer, sell, deposit, and release such moneys, properties or securities in a manner approved by the director in accordance with the provisions of this law; provided, that such moneys shall be invested in the following readily marketable classes of securities: bonds or other interest-bearing obligations of the United States of America, or securities on which the payment of principal and interest are guaranteed by the United States of America, and bonds or other interest-bearing obligations of the state of Missouri; and provided, further, that such investments shall at all times be so made that all the assets of the fund shall always be readily convertible into cash when needed for the payment of benefits. The treasurer shall dispose of securities or other properties belonging to the unemployment compensation fund only under the direction of the director.

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7. Notwithstanding any other provision of this law, any interest or penalties found to have been erroneously collected and which is ordered to be refunded shall, if paid into the unemployment compensation fund, be refunded out of the unemployment compensation fund and, if paid into the special employment security fund, shall be refunded out of the special employment security fund; except that, in the event any interest

and penalties paid into the unemployment compensation fund shall be transferred to the special employment security fund, the refund of any such interest and penalties shall be made from the special employment security fund.

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288.310. 1. There is hereby created in the state treasury a special fund to be known as the "Special Employment Security Fund". All interest and penalties collected under the provisions of this law, including moneys collected pursuant to section 288.128 for the payment of interest due on federal advances received pursuant to section 288.330, or if the fund is not utilizing moneys advanced by the federal government, then the payment of principal, interest, and administrative expenses related to credit instruments issued under section 288.330, or the payment of the principal, interest, and administrative expenses related to financial agreements under subdivision (17) of subsection 2 of section 288.330, or the payment of the principal, interest, and administrative expenses related to a combination of credit instruments and financial agreements shall be paid into this fund. The moneys collected pursuant to section 288.128 shall be used [exclusively] for the payment of interest due on federal advances received pursuant to section 288.330, or if the fund is not utilizing moneys advanced by the federal government, then the payment of principal, interest, and administrative expenses related to credit instruments issued under that section, or the payment of principal, interest, and

1 administrative expenses related to financial agreements under subdivision (17) of subsection 2 of section 288.330, or the 2. payment of the principal, interest, and administrative expenses 3 related to a combination of credit instruments and financial 4 5 agreements. Such moneys, except for moneys collected pursuant to section 288.128, shall not be expended or available for 6 7 expenditure in any manner which would permit their substitution 8 for, or a corresponding reduction in, federal funds which would in the absence of such money be available to finance expenditures 9 10 for the administration of the employment security law, but 11 nothing in this section shall prevent such moneys, except for 12 moneys collected pursuant to section 288.128, from being used as 13 a revolving fund, to cover expenditures, necessary and proper under the law, for which federal funds have been duly requested 14 but not yet received, subject to the charging of such 15 16 expenditures against such funds when received. Subject to the 17 approval of the director of the department of labor and 18 industrial relations, the moneys in this fund, except for moneys 19 collected pursuant to section 288.128, shall be used by the 20 department of labor and industrial relations for the payment of costs of administration which are found not to have been properly 21 and validly chargeable against federal grants or other funds 22 23 received for or in the unemployment compensation administration Such moneys, except for moneys collected pursuant to 24 section 288.128, shall be available either to satisfy the 25

obligations incurred by the department of labor and industrial relations for the division directly or by requesting the board of fund commissioners to transfer the required amount from the special employment security fund to the unemployment compensation administration fund. The board of fund commissioners shall upon receipt of a written request of the department of labor and industrial relations make any such transfer. No expenditures of this fund or transfer herein provided, except for moneys collected pursuant to section 288.128, shall be made unless and until the director of the department of labor and industrial relations finds that no other funds are available or can properly be used to finance such expenditures, except that as hereinafter authorized expenditures from such fund may be made for the purpose of acquiring lands and buildings, or for the erection of buildings on lands so acquired, which are deemed necessary by the director of the department of labor and industrial relations for the proper administration of this law. The director of the department of labor and industrial relations shall order the transfer of such funds or the payment of any such obligation and such funds shall be paid by the state treasurer on requisitions drawn by the director of the department of labor and industrial relations directing the state auditor to issue his or her warrant therefor. Any such warrant shall be drawn by the state auditor based upon bills of particulars and vouchers certified by an officer or employee designated by the director of the department

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of labor and industrial relations. Such certification shall among other things include a duly certified copy of the director of the department of labor and industrial relations' findings hereinbefore referred to. The moneys in this fund, except for moneys collected pursuant to section 288.128, are hereby specifically made available to replace, within a reasonable time, any moneys received by this state pursuant to section 302 of the Federal Social Security Act (42 U.S.C.A. Sec. 502), as amended, which, because of any action or contingency, have been lost or have been expended for purposes other than, or in amounts in excess of, those necessary for the proper administration of the employment security law. The moneys in this fund shall be continuously available to the director of the department of labor and industrial relations for expenditure in accordance with the provisions of this section and shall not lapse at any time or be transferred to any other fund except as herein provided.

2. The director of the department of labor and industrial relations, subject to the approval of the board of public buildings, is authorized and empowered to use all or any part of the funds in the special employment security fund, except for moneys collected pursuant to section 288.128, for the purpose of acquiring suitable office space for the division by way of purchase, lease, contract or in any other manner, including the right to use such funds or any part thereof to purchase land and erect thereon such buildings as he or she shall deem necessary or

to assist in financing the construction of any building erected by the state of Missouri or any of its agencies wherein available space will be provided for the division under lease or contract between the department of labor and industrial relations and the state of Missouri or such other agency. The director of the department of labor and industrial relations may transfer from the unemployment compensation administration fund to the special employment security fund amounts not exceeding funds specifically available to the department of labor and industrial relations for that purpose, equivalent to the fair reasonable rental value of any land and buildings acquired for its use until such time as the full amount of the purchase price of such land and buildings and such cost of repair and maintenance thereof as was expended from the special employment security fund has been returned to such fund.

2.

3. The director of the department of labor and industrial relations may also transfer from the unemployment compensation administration fund to the special employment security fund amounts not exceeding funds specifically available to the department of labor and industrial relations for that purpose, equivalent to the fair reasonable rental value of space used by the department of labor and industrial relations in any building erected by the state of Missouri or any of its agencies until such time as the department of labor and industrial relations' proportionate amount of the purchase price of such building and

the department of labor and industrial relations' proportionate amount of such costs of repair and maintenance thereof as was expended from the special employment security fund has been returned to such fund.

2.

288.330. 1. Benefits shall be deemed to be due and payable only to the extent that moneys are available to the credit of the unemployment compensation fund and neither the state nor the division shall be liable for any amount in excess of such sums. [Neither the state of Missouri, nor any person or agency acting for it, may under any circumstance, by issuing bonds or otherwise borrow money from any source whatsoever to pay benefits hereunder, except as provided in 42 U.S.C.A. Section 1321.] The governor is authorized to apply for an advance to the state unemployment fund and to accept the responsibility for the repayment of such advance [in accordance with the conditions specified in Title XII of the Social Security Act, as amended,] in order to secure to this state and its citizens the advantages available under the provisions of [such title] federal law.

2. (1) The purpose of this subsection is to provide a method of financing the replenishment of the state's unemployment compensation fund as an alternative to borrowing or obtaining advances from the federal unemployment trust fund or for refinancing those loans or advances, and to provide a method through which the state may continue its unemployment compensation program at the least possible cost to the state and

<u>its employers.</u>

2.

- (2) For the purposes of this subsection, "credit instrument" means any type of borrowing obligation issued under this section, including any bond, commercial line of credit note, tax anticipation note, or similar instrument.
- implementing the provisions of this subsection a body corporate and politic to be known as the "Missouri Commission on Employment Security Financing". The powers of the commission shall be vested in seven commissioners who shall be residents of this state and be appointed by the governor with the advice and consent of the senate except that the director of the division of employment security shall serve as a nonvoting ex officio member of the commission. The commission shall have all powers necessary to effectuate its purposes including without limitation the power to provide a seal, keep records of its proceedings, provide for professional services, and elect a chair from its members. Not more than four of the commissioners shall be of the same political party.
- (a) The commissioners shall serve five-year terms with each term beginning July first and ending on June thirtieth, except that of the commissioners first appointed one shall be appointed for a term of two years, two shall be appointed for a term of two shall be appointed for a term of four years, and two shall be appointed for a term of five years. Each

commissioner appointed thereafter shall be appointed for a term ending five years from the date of expiration of the term for which his or her predecessor was appointed, except that a person appointed to fill a vacancy prior to the expiration of such a term shall be appointed for the remainder of the term. No commissioner appointed under this subsection by the governor shall serve more than two consecutive full terms. Each commissioner shall hold office for the term of his or her appointment and until his or her successor is appointed and qualified.

2.

- (b) Notwithstanding the provisions of any other law to the contrary:
- a. No officer or employee of this state shall be deemed to have forfeited or shall forfeit his or her office or employment by reason of his or her acceptance of an appointment as a commissioner to the commission or for his or her service to the commission;
 - b. It shall not constitute a conflict of interest for a director, officer, or employee of any financial institution, investment banking firm, brokerage firm, commercial bank or trust company, architectural firm, insurance company, or any other firm, person, or corporation, to serve as a commissioner of the commission, provided such trustee, director, officer, or employee shall abstain from deliberation, action, and vote by the commission in each instance where the business affiliation or

public office association of any such trustee, director, officer,
or employee is involved.

2.

- commissioner shall execute a surety bond in the sum of fifty thousand dollars, or in lieu thereof the chair of the commission may execute a blanket bond covering all members of the commission with each surety bond to be conditioned upon the faithful performance of the duties of the office or offices covered and to be executed by a surety company authorized to transact business in this state as a surety and to be approved by the attorney general and filed in the office of the secretary of state. The cost of each such bond shall be paid by the commission.
- (d) Commissioners shall receive no compensation for the performance of their duties under this subsection, but each commissioner shall be reimbursed from the funds of the commission for his or her actual and necessary expenses incurred in carrying out his or her official duties under this subsection.
- (e) In the event that any of the commissioners or officers of the commission whose signatures or facsimile signatures appear on any credit instruments shall cease to be commissioners or officers before the delivery of such credit instruments, their signatures or facsimile signatures shall be valid and sufficient for all purposes as if such commissioners or officers had remained in office until delivery of such credit instruments.
 - (f) The commissioners executing the credit instruments of

the commission shall not be subject to any personal liability or accountability by reason of the issuance of the credit instruments.

2.

- (q) The commission shall following the close of each fiscal year submit an annual report of its activities for the preceding year to the governor and the general assembly. Each report shall set forth a complete operating and financial statement for the commission during the fiscal year it covers. At least once in each year an independent certified public accountant shall audit the records and accounts of the commission.
- (4) The commission is authorized to issue, sell, and deliver credit instruments which shall mature no later than ten years after issuance in the name of the commission in an amount determined by the commission not to exceed a total of four hundred fifty million dollars of indebtedness that results in reducing or avoiding the need to borrow or obtain an advance under 42 U.S.C., Section 1321, or any similar federal legislation, or in an amount necessary to refinance any borrowing or advance previously made by the state for those purposes. The commission shall make an affirmative finding that the issuance of credit instruments for the purposes established in this section results in a sayings to the state and its employers.
- (5) The commission shall provide for the payment of the principal of the credit instruments, any redemption premiums, the interest on the credit instruments, and the costs attributable to

the credit instruments being issued or outstanding as provided in this subsection and in section 288.310. Unless the commission directs otherwise, the credit instruments shall be repaid in the same time frame and in the same amounts as would be required for loans issued pursuant to 42 U.S.C. Section 1321; however, in no case shall credit instrument indebtedness continue beyond five consecutive years.

2.

- (6) The commission may irrevocably pledge money received from the contributions received under section 288.128 as revenue for the payment of credit instruments and deposited in an account created for such purpose in the special employment security fund or other money legally available to it.
- (7) Credit instruments issued under this section shall not constitute debts of this state or of any agency, political corporation, or political subdivision of this state and are not a pledge of the faith and credit of this state or of any of those governmental entities. The credit instruments are payable only from revenue provided for under this chapter. The credit instruments shall contain a statement to the effect that:
- (a) Neither the state nor any agency, political corporation, or political subdivision of the state shall be obligated to pay the principal or interest on the credit instruments except as provided by this section; and
- (b) Neither the full faith and credit nor the taxing power of the state nor any agency, political corporation, or political

subdivision of the state is pledged to the payment of the principal, premium, if any, or interest on the credit instruments except as provided by this section.

2.

- (8) The owner of any credit instruments issued under this section shall at the time of purchase agree to waive any right of recovery and forever hold harmless the state and any agency, political corporation, or political subdivision thereof. The credit instrument owner shall agree the sole source of revenue for repayment of such credit instruments shall be those revenues derived from contributions received under section 288.128.
- (9) The state pledges and agrees with the owners of any credit instruments issued under this section that the state will not limit or alter the rights vested in the commission to fulfill the terms of any agreements made with the owners or in any way impair the rights and remedies of the owners until the credit instruments are fully discharged except as provided by this section.
- (10) The commission may provide for the flow of funds and the establishment and maintenance of separate accounts within the special employment security fund, including the interest and sinking account, the reserve account, and other necessary accounts, and may make additional covenants with respect to the credit instruments in the documents authorizing the issuance of credit instruments including refunding credit instruments. The resolutions authorizing the issuance of credit instruments may

also prohibit the further issuance of credit instruments or other obligations payable from appropriated moneys or may reserve the right to issue additional credit instruments to be payable from appropriated moneys on a parity with or subordinate to the lien and pledge in support of the credit instruments being issued and may contain other provisions and covenants as determined by the commission.

2.

- (11) The commission may issue bonds to refund all or any part of the outstanding credit instruments issued under this section including matured but unpaid interest.
- (12) The credit instruments issued by the commission, any transaction relating to the credit instruments, and profits made from the sale of the credit instruments are free from taxation by the state or by any municipality, court, special district, or other political subdivision of the state.
- of the credit instruments less the cost of issuance shall be placed in the state's unemployment compensation fund and may be used for the purposes for which that fund may otherwise be used.

 If those net proceeds are not placed immediately in the unemployment compensation fund they shall be held in the special employment security fund in an account designated for that purpose until they are transferred to the unemployment compensation fund.
 - (14) The commission may enter into any contract or

agreement deemed necessary or desirable to effectuate cost

effective financing hereunder. Such agreements may include

credit enhancement, credit support, or interest rate agreements.

Any fees or costs associated with such agreements shall be deemed

administrative expenses for the purposes of calculating

assessments relating to payment of the principal, interest, and

administrative expenses related to credit instruments under the

provisions of section 288.128.

2.

- (15) To the extent this section conflicts with other laws
 the provisions of this section prevail. This section shall not
 be subject to the provisions of sections 23.250 to 23.298, RSMo.
- (16) If the United States Secretary of Labor holds that a provision of this subsection does not conform with a federal statute or would result in the loss to the state of any federal funds otherwise available to it the commission may administer this subsection to conform with the federal statute until the general assembly meets in its next regular session and has an opportunity to amend this subsection.
- (17) (a) As used in this subdivision the term "lender" means any state or national bank.
- (b) The commission is authorized to enter financial agreements with any lender that result in reducing or avoiding the need to borrow or obtain an advance under 42 U.S.C., Section 1321, or any similar federal legislation. The total amount of the outstanding obligation under the agreement shall not exceed

the difference of four hundred fifty million dollars and the

credit instrument indebtedness incurred under this subsection.

In no instance shall such indebtedness under any financial

agreement continue for more than five consecutive years.

Repayment of obligations to lenders shall be made from the

special employment security fund, section 288.310.

3. In event of the suspension of this law, any unobligated funds in the unemployment compensation fund, and returned by the United States Treasurer because such Federal Social Security Act is inoperative, shall be held in custody by the treasurer and under supervision of the division until the legislature shall provide for the disposition thereof. In event no disposition is made by the legislature at the next regular meeting subsequent to suspension of said law, then all unobligated funds shall be returned ratably to those who contributed thereto.

288.395. Any person or entity perpetrating a fraud or misrepresentation under this chapter for which a penalty has not herein been specifically provided, shall be quilty of a class A misdemeanor and, in addition, shall be liable to this state for a civil penalty not to exceed double the value of the fraud. Any person or entity who has previously pled quilty to or has been found quilty of perpetrating a fraud or misrepresentation under this chapter and who subsequently violated any such provisions shall be quilty of a class D felony.

288.397. The division shall send on or before September 30,

2004, to all employing units a report containing a summary of changes enacted in this act including but not limited to changes in the tax rate, contribution rate, taxable wage base, temporary solvency charges, benefit or eligibility charges, and other pertinent information to enable the employing units to comply with the changes made.

2.

288.401. 1. For the purposes of this section, "temporary help firm" means a firm that hires its own employees and assigns them to clients to support or supplement the client's work force in work situations such as employee absences, temporary skill shortages, seasonal workloads, and special assignments and projects. "Temporary employee" means an employee assigned to work for the clients of a temporary help firm.

2. A temporary employee of a temporary help firm will be deemed to have voluntarily quit employment if the employee does not contact the temporary help firm for reassignment prior to filing for benefits. Failure to contact the temporary help firm will not be deemed a voluntary quit unless the claimant has been advised of the obligation to contact the firm upon completion of assignments and that unemployment benefits may be denied for failure to do so.

Section 1. 1. There is hereby created a Missouri State

Unemployment Council ("the council"). The council shall consist

of nine appointed voting members and two appointed nonvoting

members. All appointees shall be persons whose training and

experience qualify them to deal with the difficult problems of unemployment compensation, particularly legal, accounting, actuarial, economic, and social aspects of unemployment compensation.

2.

- (1) Three voting members shall be appointed to the council by the governor. One voting member shall be appointed on account of his or her vocation, employment, or affiliations being classed as representative of employers. One voting member shall be appointed on account of his or her vocation, employment, or affiliations being classed as representative of employees. One voting member shall be appointed to represent the public interest separate from employee or employer representation.
- appointed to the council by the speaker of the house of representatives. One voting member shall be appointed on account of his or her vocation, employment, or affiliations being classed as representative of employers that employ twenty or less employees. One voting member shall be appointed on account of his or her vocation, employment, or affiliations being classed as representative of employees. One voting member shall be appointed on account of his or her vocation, employment, or affiliations being classed as representative of employees. One voting member shall be appointed to represent the public interest separate from employee or employer representation. One nonvoting member shall be appointed from the house of representatives.
 - (3) Three voting members and one nonvoting member shall be appointed to the council by the president pro tem of the senate.

One voting member shall be appointed on account of his or her vocation, employment, or affiliations being classed as representative of employers. One voting member shall be appointed on account of his or her vocation, employment, or affiliations being classed as representative of employees. One voting member shall be appointed to represent the public interest separate from employee or employer representation. One nonvoting member shall be appointed from the senate.

2.

- 2. The council shall organize itself and select a chairperson or co-chairpersons and other officers from the nine voting members. Six voting members shall constitute a quorum and the council shall act only upon the affirmative vote of at least five of the voting members. The council shall meet no less than four times yearly. Members of the council shall serve without compensation, but are to be reimbursed the amount of actual expenses. Actual expenses shall be paid from the special employment security fund under section 288.310.
- 3. The division shall provide professional and clerical assistance as needed for regularly scheduled meetings.
- 4. Each nonvoting member shall serve for a term of four years or until he or she is no longer a member of the general assembly whichever occurs first. A nonvoting member's term shall be a maximum of four years. Each voting member shall serve for a term of three years. For the initial appointment, the governor-appointed employer representative, the speaker of the house-

appointed employee representative, and the president pro tem of the senate-appointed public interest representative shall serve an initial term of one year. For the initial appointment, the governor-appointed employee representative, the speaker of the house-appointed public interest representative, and the president pro tem of the senate-appointed employer representative shall serve an initial term of two years. At the end of a voting member's term he or she may be reappointed; however, he or she shall serve no more than two terms excluding the initial term for a maximum of eight years.

2.

- 5. The council shall advise the division in carrying out
 the purposes of this chapter. The council shall submit annually
 by January fifteenth to the governor and the general assembly its
 recommendations regarding amendments of this chapter, the status
 of unemployment insurance, the projected maintenance of the
 solvency of unemployment insurance, and the adequacy of
 unemployment compensation.
- 6. The council shall present to the division every proposal of the council for changes in this chapter and shall seek the division's concurrence with the proposal. The division shall give careful consideration to every proposal submitted by the council for legislative or administrative action and shall review each legislative proposal for possible incorporation into department of labor and industrial relations recommendations.
 - 7. The council shall have access to only the records of the

division that are necessary for the administration of this chapter and to the reasonable services of the employees of the division. It may request the director or any of the employees appointed by the director or any employee subject to this chapter, to appear before it and to testify relative to the functioning of this chapter and to other relevant matters. The council may conduct research of its own, make and publish reports, and recommend to the division needed changes in this chapter or in the rules of the division as it considers necessary.

2.

8. The council, unless prohibited by a concurrent resolution of the general assembly, shall be authorized to commission an outside study of the solvency, adequacy, and staffing and operational efficiency of the Missouri unemployment system. The study shall be conducted every five years, the first being conducted in fiscal year 2005. The study shall be funded subject to appropriation from the special employment security fund under section 288.310.

Section 2. The department of labor and industrial relations may contract with a private entity for the purpose of identifying and recovering overpayments to employees and collection of delinquent employer contributions.

Section B. Because immediate action is necessary to reduce or avoid the need to borrow or obtain advances under 42 U.S.C., Section 1321, section A of this act is deemed necessary for the

immediate preservation of the public health, welfare, peace, and safety, and is hereby declared to be an emergency act within the meaning of the constitution, and section A of this act shall be in full force and effect upon its passage and approval.