

SB 433 -- UNEMPLOYMENT COMPENSATION FOR VETERANS

SPONSOR: Callahan (Day)

COMMITTEE ACTION: Voted "do pass" by the Special Committee on Veterans by a vote of 8 to 0.

To qualify for unemployment compensation benefits, this bill requires that a war on terror veteran must be a Missouri resident immediately before deployment, be a member of the Missouri National Guard or a United States reservist, and be found by a court of competent jurisdiction that the veteran was discharged or laid off from nonmilitary employment during deployment or within 30 days after the completion of his or her deployment. Benefit computations will be based on the veteran's wages in the five completed quarters immediately before the deployment.

The Division of Employment Security within the Department of Labor and Industrial Relations is allowed to recoup erroneously paid benefits, and the penalty for employers who take adverse employment actions against veterans is increased from \$25,000 to \$35,000.

FISCAL NOTE: No impact on General Revenue Fund in FY 2008, FY 2009, and FY 2010. Estimated Effect on Other State Funds of an income of \$557 in FY 2008, a cost of \$413 in FY 2009, and a cost of \$547 in FY 2010.

PROPOSERS: Supporters say that the unemployment compensation bill in 2006 did not comply with federal guidelines. This year's bill brings Missouri into compliance with federal law.

Testifying for the bill were Senator Callahan; and Division of Employment Security, Department of Labor and Industrial Relations.

OPPOSERS: There was no opposition voiced to the committee.