

SB 433 -- UNEMPLOYMENT COMPENSATION FOR CERTAIN VETERANS

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 to have been 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 calendar quarters immediately before the deployment instead of annually adjusted based on the federal Consumer Price Index.

The Division of Employment Security within the Department of Labor and Industrial Relations is allowed to recoup erroneously paid benefits, and the penalty for an employer who takes adverse employment action against a veteran is increased from \$25,000 to \$35,000.