

## HB 2362 -- Unemployment Compensation

Sponsor: Jones (89)

This bill changes the laws regarding unemployment compensation. In its main provisions, the bill:

(1) Requires a claimant to make a claim for unemployment compensation benefits within 14 days from the last day of the week being claimed. This time period can be extended to 28 days for good cause, and claims under the Shared Work Unemployment Compensation Program or the Federal Trade Act will be considered timely if filed within 28 days from the last day of the week being claimed;

(2) Requires a claimant to report to an employment office to participate in a re-employment assessment and re-employment services as directed by the deputy of the claims office unless the deputy determines that good cause exists for the claimant's failure to participate;

(3) Specifies that re-employment services include providing orientation to employment services, job search assistance, and labor market analysis;

(4) Specifies that ineligibility to receive benefits begins the first day of the week in which the claimant was scheduled to appear for re-employment services and ends on the last day of the week preceding the week the claimant reports to the employment office for re-employment services;

(5) Allows a Missouri resident who served in any state's National Guard deployed as a part of his or her military unit after September 11, 2001, to qualify as a war on terror veteran. Currently, a resident has to have served in Missouri's National Guard to qualify;

(6) Requires the Division of Employment Security within the Department of Labor and Industrial Relations to recover any overpayment of benefits to a war on terror veteran through billing, setoffs against state and federal tax refunds, intercepts of lottery winnings, and other collection efforts;

(7) Relieves the division from its responsibility to notify by mail any contributing base period employer of a worker's initial claim for benefits if the employer paid gross wages of \$400 or less during the claimant's base period;

(8) Specifies that a last employer or any base period employer will be deemed an interested party to any determination

concerning a claimant's refusal to work if the employer files a written protest against the allowance of benefits based upon the claimant's refusal to accept suitable work within 10 days of the refusal;

(9) Specifies that any employer who employed the claimant during the claimant's base period who files a protest against the allowance of benefits based upon the claimant not being able to work will be deemed an interested party in any determination of benefits; and

(10) Allows any notice of a claim or notice of determination to be transmitted electronically by the division to an employer or claimant if this method is requested. The date of the transmission will be considered the date mailed for the purpose of filing a protest to the notice of claim or filing an appeal concerning a notice of determination.

The bill becomes effective October 1, 2008.