

HCS HB 202 -- EMPLOYMENT SECURITY

SPONSOR: Casteel

COMMITTEE ACTION: Voted "Do Pass with HCS" by the Standing Committee on Government Efficiency by a vote of 11 to 6. Voted "Do Pass" by the Standing Committee on Rules-Legislative by a vote of 8 to 2.

The following is a summary of the House Committee Substitute for HB 202.

This bill adds to the reasons a claimant is disqualified for unemployment compensation by adding that if the designated representative of the Division of Employment Security within the Department of Labor and Industrial Relations finds that a claimant failed to appear for a scheduled job interview or skills test for suitable work three times. The bill also revises the method of notifying the claimant by deleting the current requirement of certified mail and referring to notification in a method and manner determined by the division . The Division must establish a method allowing employers to report individuals who do not accept or respond to offers or do not appear for scheduled interviews or tests.

This bill is the same as HCS HB 2614 (2024) and similar to HB 2034 (2024).

The following is a summary of the public testimony from the committee hearing. The testimony was based on the introduced version of the bill.

PROPONENTS: Supporters say that this is a good government bill and that "ghosting interviews" is a problem faced by employers. Having a more modern method of notification is encouraging as it would be helpful to have information in a more timely fashion.

Testifying in person for the bill were Representative Casteel; NFIB (National Federation Of Independent Business); FGA Action; and Missouri Chamber of Commerce and Industry.

OPPONENTS: Those who oppose the bill say that people depend on unemployment insurance and this is adding a complicated and possibly unverifiable hurdle for some to overcome. The current postal service is an issue and often mail is delayed or lost.

Testifying in person against the bill was Arnie Dienoff.

Written testimony has been submitted for this bill. The full written testimony and witnesses testifying online can be found under Testimony on the bill page on the House website.