

HB 771 -- DURATION OF UNEMPLOYMENT BENEFITS

SPONSOR: Hewkin

Under current law, the maximum duration for an individual to receive unemployment benefits is 20 weeks. Beginning January 1, 2026, this bill modifies the duration an individual can receive such benefits by basing it on the Missouri average unemployment rate, as follows:

(1) Twenty weeks if the Missouri unemployment rate is higher than 9% percent;

(2) Nineteen weeks if the Missouri unemployment rate is higher than 8.5% but no higher than 9%;

(3) Eighteen weeks if the Missouri unemployment rate is higher than 8% but no higher than 8.5%;

(4) Seventeen weeks if the Missouri unemployment rate is higher than 7.5% but no higher than 8%;

(5) Sixteen weeks if the Missouri unemployment rate is higher than 7% but no higher than 7.5%;

(6) Fifteen weeks if the Missouri unemployment rate is higher than 6.5% but no higher than 7%;

(7) Fourteen weeks if the Missouri unemployment rate is higher than 6% but no higher than 6.5%;

(8) Thirteen weeks if the Missouri unemployment rate is higher than 5.5% but no higher than 6%;

(9) Twelve weeks if the Missouri unemployment rate is higher than 5% but no higher than 5.5%;

(10) Eleven weeks if the Missouri unemployment rate is higher than 4.5% but no higher than 5%;

(11) Ten weeks if the Missouri unemployment rate is higher than 4% but no higher than 4.5%;

(12) Nine weeks if the Missouri unemployment rate is higher than 3.5% but no higher than 4%; and

(13) Eight weeks if the Missouri unemployment rate is at or below 3.5%.

This bill is the same as SB 8 (2025).