

Senate Committee On Economic Development, Housing, and General Affairs

Notes on Unemployment Insurance

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Discussing 3 issues of concern

1) Waiving parts of the Cares Act overpayments that occurred during the pandemic

-The Federal Government issued guidance that States should waive the federal portion of overpayments that were not caused by the claimant's fault.

-The DOL has implemented this guidance and a process exists however there is no publication of this process.

-Vermonters don't know that they can file a separate request to waive this federal portion.

2) H.92

-The bill proposed to expand eligibility for unemployment benefits in certain situations.

-As the law stands if an employee has to leave a job for necessary reasons, when they are once again able to work they would not be eligible for unemployment benefits because of the reason for separation.

-This legislation would allow individuals in urgent situations to have some support as they look to return to work.

-Vermont Legal Aid does not believe that this will cause a big increase in the number of claimants.

-Paid family leave would cover a different situation and a different period of time.

-With paid leave, there is a job to go back to.

-Expanded unemployment benefits are for people who do not have a job to go back to.

-S.101 is aiming to address the UI worker's problems.

3) The computer system for UI needs to be modernized.

-The computer system plays a massive role in running Vermont's Unemployment system.

-It is in need of modernization to increase efficiency.