



TIP McGUIRE

WISCONSIN STATE REPRESENTATIVE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Rep. McGuire Introduces Legislation Addressing Unemployment Delays

MADISON – Today, Rep. Tip McGuire introduced legislation aimed at addressing delays in the state’s employment system. Rep. McGuire and Senator Chris Larson are the lead authors of LRB-6362, which repeals existing law that requires the Department of Workforce development to investigate whether an employee had “substantial fault” in their unemployment.

“The COVID-19 pandemic has severely impacted our economy, forcing many Wisconsinites out of work,” said Rep. McGuire, “Unfortunately, far too many in our state have been forced to wait for weeks on their valid unemployment claims as their claims go through a lengthy adjudication process. We are currently the only state in the country creating these unnecessary barriers, which contribute to huge delays and prevent people from accessing their benefits.”

The concept of substantial fault was enacted into law in Wisconsin in 2013. The addition of the substantial fault disqualification led to an increase of denial of benefits by 37% after implementation. North Carolina was the only state with substantial fault when Wisconsin passed its statute. Since then, North Carolina repealed its law.

“Hard-working Wisconsinites pay into unemployment to create a safety net for themselves and their families. During this ongoing pandemic, we need to cut the red tape and ensure the safety net works for them when they need it most.”

LRB-6362 is part of a larger package of legislation aimed at improving Wisconsin’s unemployment laws, including:

- LRB 6244: Allowing social security disability (SSDI) recipients to receive concurrent unemployment insurance benefits;
- LRB 6246: Reinstating the ability of those participating in extended occupational training to receive extended UI benefits;
- LRB 6249: Suspending the \$500 wage threshold for recipients of unemployment insurance benefits temporarily;
- LRB 6254: Providing DWD the authority to determine by administrative rule what constitutes suitable work a claimant must accept if offered, and what labor market conditions to review based on the number of weeks that the claimant has received benefits;
- LRB 6256: Expanding DWD authority to promulgate rules that provider waivers for work search and job registration requirements;
- LRB 6257: Eliminating the requirement that claimants wait one week before receiving benefits; and
- LRB 6265: Reduces the work search requirement from four to two per week and repealing the provision allowing DWD to require additional work searches;

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