

HB 15-1231

Rep. Esgar & Rep. Kraft-Tharp, Sen. Merrifield

Bill Summary

Enhanced Unemployment Compensation Benefits

This bill reenacts *enhanced unemployment benefits* that expired in 2014. People enrolled in unemployment insurance and participating in an approved training program may receive enhanced benefits. The training program must prepare the claimant for a high-demand occupation, more stable occupation or long-term employment. Approved training programs include approved vocational or entrepreneurial training programs or registered apprenticeship programs.

Approved claimants can receive UI benefits for up to 20 weeks while in training. Annual reports will be submitted reporting on employment outcomes, demographics, and wage history. No more than \$12 million, \$4 million a year can be obligated. The bill is repealed June 2018.

Legislative History

Senate Bill 09-247 established the Enhanced Unemployment Insurance Benefits program in 2009, which authorized the Unemployment Insurance Division to expend up to \$15,000,000 on additional unemployment insurance benefits to claimants attending an approved training program. In 2012, *House Bill 12-1272* extended this program until June 2014 by authorizing the Division to expend an additional \$8,000,000 on claimants meeting the same basic requirements.

Over 70% of workers engaged in this program gained employment. The average annual wage for these workers is \$36,460.00.

By the Numbers

The following counties had more than 200 participants from July 1, 2009- June 2013:

- Adams- 689
- Arapahoe- 416
- Boulder- 208
- Denver- 319
- El Paso- 1585
- Jefferson- 414
- Larimer- 273
- Mesa- 200
- Pueblo- 273
- Weld- 201

Average Wage of Recipients entering employment:

\$18.00/hr

The Unemployment Insurance Division has seen higher average earnings and entered employment rate for claimants who received program benefits.

(July 1, 2009- June 30, 2013)

Return on Investment for those entering the workforce:
 Workforce Investment- 53.17%
 Workforce Investment + UI- 56.83%

**Enhanced UI + Training:
 71.67%**