

Introduced by Senators Beall and Corbett
(Coauthors: Senators Block, Calderon, Cannella, De León, DeSaulnier, Evans, Galgiani, Hancock, Hernandez, Hill, Hueso, Jackson, Lara, Leno, Lieu, Liu, Mitchell, Monning, Padilla, Pavley, Roth, Steinberg, Torres, Vidak, Wolk, and Yee)

January 16, 2014

Senate Joint Resolution No. 18—Relative to unemployment insurance.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL’S DIGEST

SJR 18, as introduced, Beall. Emergency Unemployment Compensation: extension.

This measure would proclaim the Legislature’s support for the extension of the Emergency Unemployment Compensation program and would memorialize the United States Congress to promptly renew the extension of unemployment benefits.

Fiscal committee: no.

- 1 WHEREAS, In 2008, the United States suffered its worst
- 2 economic crisis since the Great Depression; and
- 3 WHEREAS, The economic downturn resulted in a 10 percent
- 4 unemployment rate nationwide by 2009, and a rate as high as 12.4
- 5 percent in California; and
- 6 WHEREAS, When unemployment benefits were first authorized,
- 7 the national unemployment rate was only 5.6 percent; and
- 8 WHEREAS, Now the current unemployment rate is at 7 percent
- 9 and 36 states, including California, have higher rates of
- 10 unemployment,

1 WHEREAS, California’s unemployed workers currently face
2 one of the toughest job markets in the country, with statewide
3 unemployment at 8.5 percent and three unemployed workers for
4 every available job; and

5 WHEREAS, In 2009, Congress passed the Emergency
6 Unemployment Compensation (EUC) program which extended
7 benefits to those out of work for up to 99 weeks to give relief to
8 many that have endured an extended period of unemployment.
9 Unemployed workers in California receive 37 weeks of EUC, and
10 26 weeks of state benefits, averaging just two hundred ninety-two
11 dollars (\$292) a week.

12 WHEREAS, On December 28, 2013, the EUC program expired
13 without an extension from Congress. On that day, 214,000
14 unemployed workers ran out of EUC in California and 12,500
15 more will be doing so daily; and

16 WHEREAS, As of December 30, 2013, close to 1,260,400
17 unemployed workers in California have run out of all available
18 unemployment benefits; and

19 WHEREAS, The EUC program brought \$4.5 billion in benefits
20 to the California economy in 2013 alone; and

21 WHEREAS, It is crucial for the United States government to
22 take action in renewing the EUC program and extending the
23 unemployment benefits that millions of people direly need; now,
24 therefore, be it

25 *Resolved by the Senate and the Assembly of the State of*
26 *California, jointly,* That the Legislature supports the extension of
27 the Emergency Unemployment Compensation program and
28 respectfully memorializes the United States Congress to promptly
29 renew the extension of unemployment benefits that will
30 tremendously aid millions of people; and be it further

31 *Resolved,* That the Secretary of the Senate transmit copies of
32 this resolution to the President and Vice President of the United
33 States, the Speaker of the House of Representatives, the Majority
34 and Minority Leaders of the Senate, each Senator and
35 Representative from California in the Congress of the United
36 States, and to the author for appropriate distribution.