

AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY MARCH 11, 2014

Senate Joint Resolution

No. 18

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 amended, 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

1 WHEREAS, Now the current unemployment rate is at 7 percent
2 and 36 states, including California, have higher rates of
3 unemployment; and

4 WHEREAS, California's unemployed workers currently face
5 one of the toughest job markets in the country, with statewide
6 unemployment at 8.5 percent and three unemployed workers for
7 every available job; and

8 WHEREAS, In 2009, Congress passed the Emergency
9 Unemployment Compensation (EUC) program which extended
10 benefits to those out of work for up to 99 weeks to give relief to
11 many that have endured an extended period of unemployment.
12 Unemployed workers in California receive 37 weeks of EUC, and
13 26 weeks of state benefits, averaging just two hundred ninety-two
14 dollars (\$292) ~~a week~~; *and*

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

19 WHEREAS, As of ~~December 30, 2013~~, *February 24, 2014*,
20 close to ~~1,260,400~~ *1,273,100* unemployed workers in California
21 have run out of all available unemployment benefits; and

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

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

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

34 *Resolved*, That the Secretary of the Senate transmit copies of
35 this resolution to the President and Vice President of the United
36 States, the Speaker of the House of Representatives, the Majority
37 and Minority Leaders of the Senate, each Senator and

- 1 Representative from California in the Congress of the United
- 2 States, and to the author for appropriate distribution.

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