

AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY APRIL 7, 2014

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)

(Coauthors: Assembly Members Alejo, Ammiano, Atkins, Bonilla, Bonta, Bradford, Brown, Buchanan, Campos, Chau, Chesbro, Cooley, Dababneh, Daly, Dickinson, Eggman, Fong, Fox, Frazier, Garcia, Gatto, Gomez, Gonzalez, Gordon, Gray, Hall, Roger Hernández, Holden, Levine, Medina, Mullin, Muratsuchi, Nazarian, Pan, Perea, John A. Pérez, V. Manuel Pérez, Quirk, Quirk-Silva, Rendon, Rodriguez, Skinner, Stone, Ting, Weber, Wieckowski, Williams, and Yamada)

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

8 WHEREAS, Now the current unemployment rate is at 7 percent
9 and 36 states, including California, have higher rates of
10 unemployment; and

11 WHEREAS, California's unemployed workers currently face
12 one of the toughest job markets in the country, with statewide
13 unemployment at 8.5 percent and three unemployed workers for
14 every available job; and

15 WHEREAS, In 2009, Congress passed the Emergency
16 Unemployment Compensation (EUC) program which extended
17 benefits to those out of work for up to 99 weeks to give relief to
18 many that have endured an extended period of unemployment.
19 Unemployed workers in California receive 37 weeks of EUC, and
20 26 weeks of state benefits, averaging just two hundred ninety-two
21 dollars (\$292) a week; and

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

26 WHEREAS, As of February 24, 2014, close to 1,273,100
27 unemployed workers in California have run out of all available
28 unemployment benefits; and

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

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

35 *Resolved by the Senate and the Assembly of the State of*
36 *California, jointly*, That the Legislature supports the extension of
37 the Emergency Unemployment Compensation program and
38 respectfully memorializes the United States Congress to promptly
39 renew the extension of unemployment benefits that will
40 tremendously aid millions of people; and be it further

1 *Resolved*, That the Secretary of the Senate transmit copies of
2 this resolution to the President and Vice President of the United
3 States, the Speaker of the House of Representatives, the Majority
4 and Minority Leaders of the Senate, each Senator and
5 Representative from California in the Congress of the United
6 States, and to the author for appropriate distribution.

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