

SESSION OF 2011

SUPPLEMENTAL NOTE ON SENATE BILL NO. 137

As Amended by Senate Committee on
Commerce

Brief*

SB 137, as amended, would repeal the prohibition in employment security law so that school bus drivers who have been employed through a private contractor would be eligible to receive Unemployment Insurance (UI) benefits between academic years.

Background

Proponents for the bill included three school bus drivers who stated there was no reasonable assurance from their employers or the school districts that the drivers would have the same amount of work during the next school year. Other opportunities for driving employment can be infrequent during the summer months.

There was no opponent testimony.

According to the fiscal note prepared by the Division of the Budget, in consultation with the Department of Labor, the bill would increase benefits from the UI Trust Fund. The Labor Department estimates that if all privately contracted school bus drivers were to become unemployed at the same time, a maximum of \$14.0 million could be paid in benefits over the maximum benefit period of twenty-six weeks.

The Senate Committee on Commerce amended the bill to clarify that school bus drivers would be eligible for UI benefits.

*Supplemental notes are prepared by the Legislative Research Department and do not express legislative intent. The supplemental note and fiscal note for this bill may be accessed on the Internet at <http://www.kslegislature.org>