
**Assembly Committee on Labor
Assembly Bill 684**

February 4, 2014

**Testimony provided by David Anderson, Assistant Deputy Secretary, and
Janell Knutson, Director of the Bureau of Legal Affairs**

Chairperson Knodl and members of the Assembly Committee on Labor:

I am David Anderson, Assistant Deputy Secretary at the Department of Workforce Development, and I am here with Janell Knutson, the Director of the Bureau of Legal Affairs in the Division of Unemployment Insurance and the Chair of the Unemployment Insurance Advisory Council (Council). We come before you in support of Assembly Bill 684, which was recently approved by the Council.

Following the passage of Acts 20 and 36, the Department identified three drafting errors that require technical corrections.

The first is a change to the license revocation provisions contained in Act 36. Act 20 transferred from one agency to another the authority to issue certain licenses. However, the statutory changes included in Act 20 were not reflected in the licensing revocation provisions that were created by Act 36. For example, Act 20 transferred administration of certain licenses to the Department of Financial Institutions from the Department of Safety and Professional Services. Thus, a technical correction is necessary to ensure that the proper agency is referenced in chapter 108.

Second, Act 36 removed the "good cause" exemption when claimants are requested to provide information to the Department. However, Act 36 did not amend another portion of s. 108.04 (1) (hm), Stats., that contains a reference to "good cause" language. The bill rectifies this error.

Third, Act 36 amended the amount of tardy filing fees charged to employers who are delinquent in filing their quarterly wage reports. The purpose of these amendments was to provide an incentive for employers to file their quarterly wage reports on time by increasing the amount of the tardy filing fee, but reduce it if they filed the report within 30 days. This technical change clarifies that the 30 day clock starts after the Department assesses the tardy filing fee.

We would like to thank the Unemployment Insurance Advisory Council for their work on this legislation. We would also like to thank Chairperson Knodl and the committee for this hearing. We welcome any questions that members may have.