



WISCONSIN LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL ACT MEMO

2011 Wisconsin Act 42
[2011 Senate Bill 147]

**Extended Unemployment Insurance
Benefits**

2011 Wisconsin Act 42 relates to the payment of extended unemployment insurance benefits during certain periods in this state, as approved by the Unemployment Insurance Advisory Council on June 23, 2011. The Act creates a new temporary mechanism for determining when Wisconsin is eligible for a period of extended unemployment benefits, as authorized by federal law.

Changes in federal law have provided for full federal funding of extended unemployment compensation through January 4, 2012. The federal funding does not apply to state, local, and tribal government employers.

Changes in federal law have also allowed each state to modify its laws to temporarily look back three years, rather than two, in comparing the current unemployment rates to the corresponding period in preceding years to determine whether there has been an “on” or “off” indicator for an extended benefits period. The Act conforms Wisconsin law to this authorization.

Under prior law, with a two-year look-back comparison of unemployment rates, the extended benefits period in Wisconsin ended on April 16, 2011. Under Act 42, for as long as the unemployment rates qualify for an “on” indicator using the three-year look-back comparison, the extended benefit period is available from December 17, 2010, through January 4, 2012, for eligible Wisconsin workers. This allows up to 13 weeks of extended benefits, for an eligible worker who has exhausted the regular and emergency unemployment compensation benefits.

Under Act 42, the temporary mechanism for determining Wisconsin’s eligibility for extended benefits could continue beyond January 4, 2012, if both the full federal funding and the authorization for the three-year look-back comparison are extended. The temporary mechanism under the Act will terminate when either the federal funding, or the authorization for the mechanism terminate, whichever occurs first.

This memo provides a brief description of the Act. For more detailed information, consult the text of the law and related legislative documents at the Legislature’s Web site at: <http://www.legis.state.wi.us/>.

Effective date: Act 42 takes effect on August 5, 2011, and applies to eligible workers on or after December 17, 2010.

Prepared by: Margit Kelley, Staff Attorney

August 10, 2011

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