

## COSPONSORSHIP MEMORANDUM

**To:** All Legislators  
**From:** Representative Alex Dallman  
Senator Dan Feyen

**Date:** April 5<sup>th</sup>, 2023  
**RE:** Co-sponsorship of LRB 2179/1: the amount of benefits received under the unemployment insurance law.  
**Deadline:** Friday, April 7<sup>th</sup>, 2023 at 12:00 PM

With the advisory referendum on requiring able-bodied, childless adults to look for work in order to receive taxpayer-funded welfare benefits passing yesterday, there is no better time to reform Wisconsin's unemployment program and get more people back into the workforce.

Our current unemployment program provides for 26 weeks of unemployment no matter the current economic conditions and availability to employment. This creates a disincentive to get people back in the workforce.

Many states have reformed their unemployment system to index their benefits to their unemployment rate. These states have seen dramatic decreases in the number of weeks individuals are on unemployment as people are more likely to find unemployment shortly before benefits are exhausted. States that have adopted indexing have also seen dramatic decreases in unemployment insurance taxes and healthier unemployment funds.

LRB 2179/1 would determine the maximum weeks of eligibility for individuals based upon Wisconsin's current unemployment rate. Benefit weeks would max out at 26 if the unemployment rate was over 9%. Weeks would be reduced according to the table included in the bill.

**If you would like to co-sponsor this legislation, please respond to this email or contact Representative Dallman's office at 6-8077 or Senator Feyen's office at 6-5300 by 12:00pm on Friday, April 7<sup>th</sup>, 2023.** Your name will be added to the Assembly and Senate version unless otherwise specified.

A copy of this legislation is attached for your review.

### **Analysis by the Legislative Reference Bureau**

*This bill changes the maximum number of weeks of regular unemployment insurance (UI) benefits payable to an eligible claimant who is totally unemployed to an amount that varies depending upon the seasonally adjusted statewide unemployment rate.*

*Currently, the maximum number of weeks of regular UI benefits payable to an eligible claimant who is totally unemployed and who earns sufficient wages to qualify for those benefits is fixed at 26 weeks. Under the bill, the maximum number of weeks available to claimants is determined monthly, based upon the unemployment rate using the most recently available federal data. Once a claimant begins a benefit year, the claimant's maximum number of weeks of regular benefits is fixed for that benefit year. Because the maximum number of weeks of state supplemental benefits payable to a claimant is calculated in part based upon the maximum number of weeks of regular benefits payable to a claimant, the change also affects the maximum number of weeks of state supplemental benefits payable to a claimant. Under the bill, the maximum number of weeks of regular benefits for total unemployment is determined as follows:*

<b>Statewide unemployment rate</b>	<b>Maximum weeks of benefits</b>
Greater than 9.0 percent	26
Greater than 8.5 percent but less than or equal to 9.0 percent	25
Greater than 8.0 percent but less than or equal to 8.5 percent	24
Greater than 7.5 percent but less than or equal to 8.0 percent	23
Greater than 7.0 percent but less than or equal to 7.5 percent	22
Greater than 6.5 percent but less than or equal to 7.0 percent	21
Greater than 6.0 percent but less than or equal to 6.5 percent	20
Greater than 5.5 percent but less than or equal to 6.0 percent	19
Greater than 5.0 percent but less than or equal to 5.5 percent	18
Greater than 4.5 percent but less than or equal to 5.0 percent	17
Greater than 4.0 percent but less than or equal to 4.5 percent	16
Greater than 3.5 percent but less than or equal to 4.0 percent	15
Less than or equal to 3.5 percent	14