

## STATEMENT OF PURPOSE

RS28755 / S1182

This legislation streamlines and simplifies unemployment insurance calculations to help ensure the State Unemployment Insurance Trust Fund remains solvent. It does that by changing the employment security benefit formula in employment security laws to simplify the minimum and maximum amount of unemployment insurance benefits for which a person is eligible. The bill does keep in place the State's index tying the amount of benefits people receive to the overall health of the economy, but reduces the maximum number of weeks of unemployment benefits from 26 weeks to 20 weeks. This legislation will have the added benefit of making it easier for someone to understand the number of weeks of unemployment benefits for which he or she is eligible. Finally, there is a sunrise provision so that the bill takes effect on July 1, 2022 in order to account for federal pandemic unemployment funding. As with Medicaid funding, there were strings attached to the supplemental federal funding for unemployment insurance. The effective date of this bill accounts for the federal funding timeline and strings.

## FISCAL NOTE

There is no direct cost to the State General Fund. However, there should be a net benefit to the State Unemployment Insurance Trust Fund, which has been pushed to the limit in the past year, even with a large influx of federal funding. By paying out fewer weeks of unemployment benefits, particularly during a good economy, the State Trust Fund will see a net reduction in spending. That will ensure the Trust Fund remains solvent.

### Contact:

Senator Christy Zito  
(208) 332-1336

**DISCLAIMER: This statement of purpose and fiscal note are a mere attachment to this bill and prepared by a proponent of the bill. It is neither intended as an expression of legislative intent nor intended for any use outside of the legislative process, including judicial review (Joint Rule 18).**