



House Republicans Propose UI Reforms with Shorter Unemployment Emergency Extension and Payroll Tax Cut

Representative Dave Camp (R-MI), Chairman of the House Ways and Means Committee on December 9th released the details of the “Middle Class Tax Relief and Job Creation Act of 2011, HR 3630. A summary of the Act related to unemployment insurance is provided at

http://waysandmeans.house.gov/UploadedFiles/Unemployment_Insurance.pdf

An additional provision related to ending unemployment compensation for millionaires is described in

http://waysandmeans.house.gov/UploadedFiles/Ending_UI_for_Millionaires.pdf

In his release describing the proposal Chairman Camp summarized the UI provisions by saying

Unemployment Insurance Provisions: Strengthens job search requirements in the unemployment insurance program; allows States to screen and test for drug use; increases State flexibility to design reemployment programs (including those supported by President Obama); reduces waste, fraud and abuse through increased program integrity measures like data standardization; and reduces the maximum weeks of unemployment benefits from 99 to 59 weeks – a level consistent with prior recessions. The weeks of benefits are immediately reduced by 20 and then, by adopting one of the President’s own policies, an additional 20 weeks are phased out by the middle of 2012 in all but four States.

A number of the UI reform provisions that assure that state laws provide that individuals must be able to work, available for work and actively seeking work mirror provisions that UWC and the coalition of business associations supported in HR 1745 earlier this year.

We expect the bill to be considered on the House floor next week and will provide the framework for consideration of end of year measures to address the extension of emergency unemployment compensation as well as the other high profile issues of the extension of the payroll tax cut, the Keystone XL Pipeline, EPA Regulations, and increasing the Medicare reimbursement rates that otherwise are automatically reduced.

The bill in its entirety can be accessed at the bottom of the page of the House Rules committee at

<http://rules.house.gov/billsthisweek.aspx?NewsID=644>