

SESSION OF 2003

**CONFERENCE COMMITTEE REPORT BRIEF  
HOUSE BILL NO. 2332**

As Agreed to March 31, 2003

**Brief \***

HB 2332 amends the Employment Security Law by doing away with the current requirement that a person's unemployment benefits have 50 percent of Social Security and Railroad Retirement Act benefits deducted from unemployment benefit payments.

In addition, the bill modifies the formula for unemployment benefits for one year. Under the bill two weeks of additional benefits would be given to claimants who exhaust regular benefits and any other federal or state extended benefits from July 1, 2003 to June 30, 2004. The bill clarifies that employers would not be charged for any extended or additional benefits.

Finally, the bill amends the Employment Security Law by changing Kansas law to match federal law regarding an unemployment tax on employers who hire immigrant agricultural workers. The bill does away with this unemployment assessment.

**Background**

The sponsor appeared in favor of the bill. Others who testified in support of the measure included conferees from the AARP, the Kansas AFL-CIO, the Older Kansan Employment Program, and a private citizen. The Chief Counsel from the Department of Human Resources who provided information stated support for the bill. The Employment Security Advisory Council has endorsed the bill.

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\*Conference committee report briefs are prepared by the Legislative Research Department and do not express legislative intent. No summary is prepared when the report is an agreement to disagree. The conference committee summary report may be accessed on the Internet at <http://www.kslegislature.org/klrd>

The fiscal note on the original bill indicates that unemployment benefits paid from the Employment Security Trust Fund would increase by \$1.2 million.

The provisions regarding the formula for unemployment benefits came from SB 269 as agreed to by the Conference Committee.

The provisions regarding immigrant workers are from HB 2267 as agreed to by the Conference Committee.