

HOUSE RESEARCH

Bill Summary

FILE NUMBER: H.F. 872

DATE: March 19, 2007

Version: First committee engrossment

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Subject: Unemployment Insurance/Extra Benefits

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The author's delete all amendment to H.F. 872 provides up to 13 weeks of additional unemployment benefits to workers laid off after April 1, 2006, from the Ainsworth Lumber Company plants in Bemidji, Cook and Grand Rapids if the worker established a benefit account prior to March 1, 2007. The extra benefits are payable from the unemployment insurance trust fund and will not be used in computing the company's experience rating.

To be eligible for the additional benefits, an applicant must have the majority of their wage credits with Ainsworth Lumber Company or Ainsworth Engineered; must meet the general requirements for unemployment benefit eligibility; not be subject to disqualification; not be entitled to regular unemployment benefits or unemployment benefits under any other state or federal law; and be enrolled in or have recently completed a reemployment assistance training program, or be within 30 days of beginning a training program under certain circumstances.

Weekly benefit amounts under the extended program are the same as benefits under the regular benefit program. Any other unemployment benefits an applicant is entitled to must be exhausted before the extra benefits are available. This additional benefit program expires on December 31, 2007.

The bill is effective the first Sunday following final enactment.