# HOUSE RESEARCH

# Bill Summary

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**Subject:** Iron Range Unemployment Benefits Extension

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#### **Article 1**

## **Iron Mining**

## **Section**

- 1 Iron ore mining industry extended unemployment benefits program.
  - **Subd. 1. Availability of extended unemployment benefits.** Authorizes extended unemployment insurance benefits for applicants laid off after March 15, 2015 from employers in the iron ore mining industry or employers supplying goods or services directly to iron ore extraction and processing businesses.
  - **Subd. 2**. **Eligibility requirements.** Applicant eligible if regular benefits exhausted.
  - **Subd. 3. Weekly and maximum amount of extended unemployment benefits.** Allows a maximum of 26 weeks of extended benefits.
  - **Subd. 4. Qualifying for a new regular benefit account.** If an applicant again becomes eligible for regular UI benefits, the applicant may take the greater of the new benefits or the extended benefits.
  - **Subd. 5. Eligibility for Trade Adjustment Assistance Program benefits.**Applicants who have applied and been determined eligible for federal TAA benefits are not eligible for extended UI benefits.
  - **Subd. 6. Effect on employer.** Benefits paid under this bill will not affect an employer's experience rating for UI tax purposes.
    - Subd. 7. Legislative findings.

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#### **Section**

#### Article 2

# **Unemployment Insurance**

- 1 Unemployment insurance tax reform. Reduces unemployment insurance taxes for the following year if certain conditions relating to the solvency of the UI trust fund are met on any December 31. Employers with the maximum experience rating are not eligible for the reduction. The reduction takes the form of credits against future UI taxes owed.
- 2 Unemployment insurance tax reform. Reduces 2016 unemployment insurance taxes bases on a ratio between the trust fund balance and total taxable wages in covered employment as of December 31, 2015. The reduction takes the form of credits against future UI taxes owed.