



2010 General Assembly Session

**Susan M. Batte
Administrative Law Judge
Virginia Employment Commission**

Overview

- **11 bills and 2 study resolutions introduced impacting VEC**
- **All but one concerned the UI program**
- **Involved seasonal workers, overpayments, expanding benefit entitlement, worker misclassification, and the minimum earnings requirement**
- **Only 3 bills passed**

Legislation Enacted

- **HB 535 – Deferred the increase in the minimum two-quarter earnings requirement to July of 2011**
- **HB 550 – Authorized VEC to recover administrative error overpayments by repayment agreement**
- **HB 760 – Created a Veterans Skills data base**

Legislation that Failed Seasonality

- **HB 177 – Would classify tax preparers as seasonal employees under certain circumstances; failed in House subcommittee**
- **HB 178 – Would treat employee as seasonal if informed in writing job was seasonal and would end on date certain; bill withdrawn by patron because it violated federal law**

Legislation that Failed Benefit Expansion

- **Multiple bills introduced that, if enacted, would allow Virginia to receive \$125 million in federal stimulus funds to pay benefits**
- **The two principal bills were HB 647 and SB 239**
- **HB 647 was defeated in House subcommittee**
- **SB 239 passed the Senate but was defeated in a House subcommittee**

Benefit Expansion

- **HB 647 proposed to allow benefits to individuals who were exclusively part-time, and to individuals in certain job training programs**
- **SB 239 would allow benefits to individuals who quit work for compelling family reasons and who were enrolled in certain job training programs**

Bills Referred for Study

- **HB 252 – Waiver of overpayments due to agency error. Will be studied by legislature's Commission on Unemployment Compensation**
- **SB 34 – Worker Misclassification – Study committee not yet appointed under Senate rules**

Study Resolutions

- **HJ 23 – Effectiveness of deputy adjudications – will be studied by U. C. Commission**
- **HJ 49 – Overpayments – study undertaken by APA Auditors as part of their annual audit of the VEC**

Conclusion

- Questions and answers