



ALASKA STATE LEGISLATURE

House Labor & Commerce Committee

Rep. Ivy Spohnholz, Co-Chair
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Summary of changes: HB 151 v. B to CSHB 151(L&C)

“An Act Relating to unemployment benefits during a period of state or national emergency resulting from a novel coronavirus disease (COVID-19) outbreak; and providing for an effective date.”

The House Labor and Commerce Committee amended version B of HB 151 to extend the duration of the increased per dependent benefit, or dependent allowance (DA), by 6 months.

Version B of the bill repealed the increased DA benefit on September 6th, 2021, along with section 1 of the bill. The CSHB 151(L&C) version of the bill repeals the increased benefit on March 31st, 2022.

This change was made at the sponsor’s request due to Alaska’s seasonal economy, where employment typically dips in the fall. Approximately 1/3 of unemployment insurance (UI) claims go to households with children and people living with disabilities. Further extending the increased benefit provides additional targeted support for the families who need it.

According to analysis from the Division of Employment and Training Services, this change will result in an additional \$8 million draw, which can be accomplished with nominal impacts to the fund.