

SB

170

<target><bill>SB 170</bill><subject>SB
170</subject><comm>HFIN26</comm></target>

ALASKA STATE LEGISLATURE

Finance Committee
•
Health & Social Services Committee
•
Legislative Council
•
Committee on Committees



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SENATE MAJORITY LEADER
JOHNNY ELLIS

SPONSOR STATEMENT – SENATE BILL 170

SB 170 – An Act modifying the Alaska unemployment insurance statutes to comply with the requirements of the federal economic stimulus bill by redefining the base period for determining eligibility for unemployment benefits; and providing for an effective date.

Senate Bill 170 updates Alaska's unemployment insurance statutes to conform to the federal unemployment insurance modernization provisions included in the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009, commonly known as the federal stimulus bill. ARRA provides over \$16 million in funding to support these changes, which includes just over \$1 million in administrative assistance. This funding is conditional on making the changes included in SB 170. Of the three provisions necessary to receive this funding, Alaska is already in compliance with the two more difficult requirements. The bill meets the final requirement by creating an alternative base period to determine an unemployed person's eligibility for unemployment insurance.

Thirteen Governors (including seven Republicans) from across the country have expressed their intention to make these changes, and four states already comply. Iowa and South Dakota have already passed legislation to modernize their UI systems and accept their share of the federal money, and Georgia is in the process, with the support of each of their Governors. Any funding sources Alaska chooses not to take advantage of will be re-allocated to the federal UI program that will put it to use rather than being used to reduce federal deficit spending.

The Alaska Department of Labor estimated that the alternative base period would make approximately 1,300 more Alaskans eligible for unemployment insurance compensation each year. This change will help low-income Alaskans weather the national economic downturn without placing an undue hardship on employers and small businesses that support the UI trust fund. The estimated impact on the UI trust fund in calendar year 2008 had this change been in place would have been approximately \$1.9 million in additional payments (on top of the \$121 million paid out already). This amount is small enough in comparison to the overall size of the fund's corpus - \$351 million at the end of 2008 – the annual investment returns, and the additional federal funds which would become available, that the impact on business taxes would be negligible.

FISCAL NOTE

STATE OF ALASKA
2009 LEGISLATIVE SESSION

Fiscal Note Number: _____
 Bill Version: CSSB 170(FIN)
 () Publish Date: _____

Identifier (file name): SBCS170(FIN)-DOLWD-UI-04-11-09 Dept. Affected: Labor and Workforce Development
 Title: Unemployment Amendments: Fed Stimulus RDU: Employment Security
 Sponsor: Senator Ellis Component: Unemployment Insurance
 Requester: Senate Finance Component Number: 2276

Expenditures/Revenues (Thousands of Dollars)

Note: Amounts do not include inflation unless otherwise noted below.

	Appropriation Required	Information						
		FY 2010	FY 2010	FY 2011	FY 2012	FY 2013	FY 2014	FY 2015
OPERATING EXPENDITURES								
Personal Services								
Travel								
Contractual								
Supplies								
Equipment								
Land & Structures								
Grants & Claims								
Miscellaneous								
TOTAL OPERATING		0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0

CAPITAL EXPENDITURES								
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CHANGE IN REVENUES ()								
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FUND SOURCE (Thousands of Dollars)

1002 Federal Receipts								
1003 GF Match								
1004 GF								
1005 GF/Program Receipts								
1037 GF/Mental Health								
Other Interagency Receipts								
TOTAL		0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0

Estimate of any current year (FY2009) cost: None

POSITIONS

Full-time								
Part-time								
Temporary								

ANALYSIS: (Attach a separate page if necessary)

There is no anticipated fiscal impact to the department as a result of this legislation.

This legislation makes changes to the Unemployment Insurance base period used to determine eligibility for benefits by allowing use of the most recent completed quarter if an individual would not be eligible using the prior four quarters. Based on a review of 2008 unemployment insurance benefit applications, 1,293 additional unemployed workers would have been eligible for unemployment insurance benefits if the alternate base period were in place in 2008, resulting in \$1.95 million in unemployment insurance benefits paid from the Unemployment Insurance Trust Fund.

This legislation also provides recognized tribal entities the ability to become reimbursable employers for tax purposes.

Prepared by: Thomas Nelson, Director Phone 465-5933
 Division: Division of Employment Security Date/Time 4/11/09 1:22 PM
 Approved by: Click Bishop, Commissioner Date 4/11/09
 Agency: Department of Labor and Workforce Development

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SENATE MAJORITY LEADER
JOHNNY ELLIS

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

ABOUT UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE MODERNIZATION FUNDING IN THE FEDERAL STIMULUS

The American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009, better known as the federal stimulus, has been the subject of intense scrutiny here in Alaska and around the country. Because of the amount of interest and complexity of the stimulus bill, there has been significant confusion about a number of specific points. In the interest of ensuring accuracy in the conversation around Senate Bill 170 and the unemployment insurance funds in the federal stimulus, this sheet attempts to address some of those common misconceptions around the specific changes proposed in this bill.

Q: What changes Alaska must make to our unemployment insurance program to be eligible for the modernization incentive? Many states are concerned that changes to the UI statutes will require significant expansions of eligibility requirements.

A: The US Department of Labor has certified that **Alaska already meets two of the three qualifications** for the unemployment insurance modernization incentive funds. The first third of the money is contingent on a state including an alternative base period to determine eligibility, which is the change SB170 proposes. The second two-thirds are based on a state allowing UI payments to be made to unemployed workers who fit at least two of the following four conditions: part-time workers, workers enrolled in training programs, workers who leave their jobs for compelling family reasons, and additional benefits for workers with dependents. Alaska already meets the final two categories, making further change unnecessary. Many other states need to make all three changes.

Q: Won't those changes mean increased numbers of people receiving UI benefits and increase business taxes over the long term?

A: The Alaska Department of Labor has determined that had the changes in SB170 been in effect in calendar year 2008, 1,300 additional people would have been eligible for \$1.9 million in payments. The amount necessary to keep the UI trust fund solvent, given the current balance of over \$350 million, is significantly less than the amount offered by the federal government. After seeing these calculations, the **National Federation of Independent Business – Alaska endorsed SB170** as “a relatively simple administrative change the cost of which will be born by stimulus funding. . . This is good for individual Alaskans, employers, and Alaska’s economy.”

Q: What is the effect on state government of accepting short-term federal money? Will we be forced to close down the existing programs or replace the federal dollars with state funds?

A: While the stimulus does not mandate that any federal funds be replaced, the unemployment insurance modernization funds provided are **more than enough to cover the costs of the expansion indefinitely**. The state Department of Labor is determining exactly how much of the

\$15.6 million Alaska would be eligible for if SB170 is adopted would need to be deposited in the UI trust fund to maintain solvency, but it is expected to be significantly less than the available total, freeing up the rest of the money to support job training and workforce development programs.

Q: If all the money is not necessary to shore up the UI trust fund, what will be done with it, and how can we be assured that it will not create a long-term growth in government?

A: The UI modernization incentive funds are eligible to be used for three purposes: paying UI benefits, administering the UI program, or job training programs. It is our intent that funding in excess of the amount required to pay benefits without increasing taxes would be appropriated to support job training. Alaska is currently facing the highest unemployment rates in a generation, and we are facing a massive shortage of qualified workers as we approach construction on a natural gas pipeline. The confluence of these two events makes the timing perfect for a **highly targeted short term expansion of workforce development programs**, the need for which will decline as the federal money runs out.

Q: Are these stimulus funds a backdoor approach to increasing state spending through the requirement of a state match?

A: There are some stimulus programs that require a state match component to participate, but the UI modernization is not one of them. It is also worth noting that other stimulus programs serve to reduce state spending, either by increasing federal reimbursement levels or eliminating state match components altogether.

Q: Some are concerned about the impact of the federal stimulus package on the overall federal debt. Many of these criticisms portray the stimulus package as burdening the future and passing debt on to future generations.

A: The federal debt is a very serious issue, and significant action must be taken to undo the fiscal impacts of the last eight years and return to the surpluses left by the Clinton Administration. Unfortunately, **state action on the stimulus cannot have any impact**. All funds have already been appropriated by the federal government, and any moneys not accepted by Alaska will be re-routed to other states that are willing to take advantage of them – many of which have already stated their willingness to do so due to the hardships caused by the current economic downturn.

Q: A major consideration for some has been potential strings attached to federal funds, and what a change in statute now means for the future.

A: Any changes to state statute that are made to maximize federal funding are done freely, after a detailed examination of the positive and negative attributes of the package. While the unemployment insurance section of the stimulus explicitly prohibits sunset clauses or temporary provisions, there is **no prohibition on future legislatures re-examining the program** and making whatever changes they see fit.

Q: Doesn't increasing our reliance on federal funding create a potential loss of state sovereignty? Many are concerned that the stimulus funds represent a marked increase in moneys contingent on compliance with federal mandates.

A: The fiscal year 2010 operating budget contains approximately \$2.8 billion in federal funds, almost all attached to highly specific instructions on how it may be spent. Since its inception, the state of Alaska has received tens of billions of dollars from the federal government, and our delegation to Congress, most notably Sen. Ted Stevens, has made careers out of maximizing the number of federal dollars that flow into our state.

NELP

National Employment Law Project

Updated March 13, 2009

GOVERNORS IN SUPPORT OF THE UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE MODERNIZATION ACT STIMULUS PROVISIONS

Arkansas

- Governor Mike Beebe (D)
- Arkansas Democrat-Gazette, March 4, 2009
- Editorial: "Beebe should accept help," Arkansas Leader, March 2, 2009

California

- Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger (R)
- Los Angeles Times, February 25, 2009; New York Times, February 22, 2009
- Editorial: "As We See It: Shoring up jobless benefits," San Jose Mercury News, March 6, 2009

Connecticut

- Governor Jodi Rell (R)
- Governor's Press Release, March 6, 2009

Florida

- Governor Charlie Crist (R)
- Miami Herald, March 5, 2009

Georgia

- Governor Sonny Perdue (R)
- Atlanta Journal-Constitution, March 4, 2009; 11Alive, Atlanta, March 4, 2009
- Oped: "Too few Georgia workers qualify for unemployment," Atlanta Journal-Constitution, March 9, 2009

Iowa

- Governor Chet Culver (D)
- Governor's Press Release, February 18, 2009

Oklahoma

- Governor Brad Henry (D)
- Tulsa World, March 4, 2009

Oregon

- Governor Ted Kulongoski (D)
- Statesmen Journal, February 24, 2009

Pennsylvania

- Governor Ed Rendell (D)
- Allentown Morning Call, February 28, 2009
- Editorial: "Funds for state's unemployed are getting precariously low," Patriot News, March 5, 2009

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Rhode Island

- Governor Donald Carcieri (R)
- Governor's Press Release, February 26, 2009

South Dakota

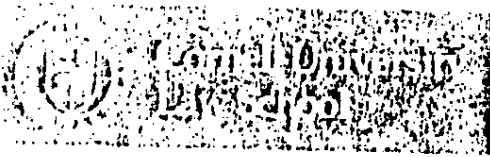
- Governor Michael Rounds (R)
- "Opinion: Stimulus cash means more unemployment benefits in S. Dakota," The Daily Republic, March 07, 2009

Tennessee

- Governor Phil Bredesen (D)
- Chattanooga Times Free Press, March 7, 2009; WSMV Nashville, March 6, 2009

Utah

- Governor Jon Huntsman (R)
- New York Times, February 26, 2009



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TITLE 26 > Subtitle C > CHAPTER 23 > § 3309

§ 3309. State law coverage of services performed for nonprofit organizations or governmental entities

(a) State law requirements

For purposes of section 3304 (a) (6)—

(1) except as otherwise provided in subsections (b) and (c), the services to which this paragraph applies are—

(A) service excluded from the term "employment" solely by reason of paragraph (8) of section 3306 (c), and

(B) service excluded from the term "employment" solely by reason of paragraph (7) of section 3306 (c); and

(2) the State law shall provide that a governmental entity, including an Indian tribe, or any other organization (or group of governmental entities or other organizations) which, but for the requirements of this paragraph, would be liable for contributions with respect to service to which paragraph (1) applies may elect, for such minimum period and at such time as may be provided by State law, to pay (in lieu of such contributions) into the State unemployment fund amounts equal to the amounts of compensation attributable under the State law to such service. The State law may provide safeguards to ensure that governmental entities or other organizations so electing will make the payments required under such elections.

(b) Section not to apply to certain service

This section shall not apply to service performed—

(1) in the employ of

(A) a church or convention or association of churches,

(B) an organization which is operated primarily for religious purposes and which is operated, supervised, controlled, or principally supported by a church or convention or association of churches, or

(C) an elementary or secondary school which is operated primarily for religious purposes, which is described in section 501 (c)(3), and which is exempt from tax under section 501 (a);

(2) by a duly ordained, commissioned, or licensed minister of a church in the exercise of his ministry or by a member of a religious order in the exercise of duties required by such order;

(3) in the employ of a governmental entity referred to in paragraph (7) of section 3306 (c), if such service is performed by an individual in the exercise of his duties—

(A) as an elected official;

(B) as a member of a legislative body, or a member of the judiciary, of a State or political subdivision thereof, or of an Indian tribe;

(C) as a member of the State National Guard or Air National Guard;

(D) as an employee serving on a temporary basis in case of fire, storm, snow, earthquake, flood, or similar emergency;

(E) in a position which, under or pursuant to the State or tribal law, is designated as

(i) a major nontenured policymaking or advisory position, or

(ii) a policymaking or advisory position the performance of the duties of which ordinarily does

not require more than 8 hours per week; or

(F) as an election official or election worker if the amount of remuneration received by the individual during the calendar year for services as an election official or election worker is less than \$1,000;

(4) in a facility conducted for the purpose of carrying out a program of—

(A) rehabilitation for individuals whose earning capacity is impaired by age or physical or mental deficiency or injury, or

(B) providing remunerative work for individuals who because of their impaired physical or mental capacity cannot be readily absorbed in the competitive labor market,

by an individual receiving such rehabilitation or remunerative work;

(5) as part of an unemployment work-relief or work-training program assisted or financed in whole or in part by any Federal agency or an agency of a State or political subdivision thereof or of an Indian tribe, by an individual receiving such work relief or work training; and

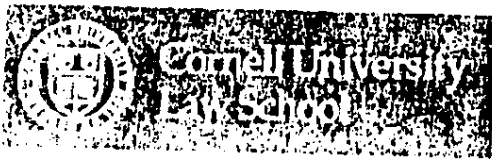
(6) by an inmate of a custodial or penal institution.

(c) Nonprofit organizations must employ 4 or more

This section shall not apply to service performed during any calendar year in the employ of any organization unless on each of some 20 days during such calendar year or the preceding calendar year, each day being in a different calendar week, the total number of individuals who were employed by such organization in employment (determined without regard to section 3306 (c)(8) and by excluding service to which this section does not apply by reason of subsection (b)) for some portion of the day (whether or not at the same moment of time) was 4 or more.

(d) Election by Indian tribe

The State law shall provide that an Indian tribe may make contributions for employment as if the employment is within the meaning of section 3306 or make payments in lieu of contributions under this section, and shall provide that an Indian tribe may make separate elections for itself and each subdivision, subsidiary, or business enterprise wholly owned by such Indian tribe. State law may require a tribe to post a payment bond or take other reasonable measures to assure the making of payments in lieu of contributions under this section. Notwithstanding the requirements of section 3306 (a)(6), if, within 90 days of having received a notice of delinquency, a tribe fails to make contributions, payments in lieu of contributions, or payment of penalties or interest (at amounts or rates comparable to those applied to all other employers covered under the State law) assessed with respect to such failure, or if the tribe fails to post a required payment bond, then service for the tribe shall not be excepted from employment under section 3306 (c)(7) until any such failure is corrected. This subsection shall apply to an Indian tribe within the meaning of section 4(e) of the Indian Self-Determination and Education Assistance Act (25 U.S.C. 450b (e)).



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TITLE 26 > Subtitle C > CHAPTER 23 > § 3306

§ 3306. Definitions

(a) Employer

this chapter—

For purposes of

(1) In general

The term "employer" means, with respect to any calendar year, any person who—

(A) during any calendar quarter in the calendar year or the preceding calendar year paid wages of \$1,500 or more, or

(B) on each of some 20 days during the calendar year or during the preceding calendar year, each day being in a different calendar week, employed at least one individual in employment for some portion of the day.

For purposes of this paragraph, there shall not be taken into account any wages paid to, or employment of, an employee performing domestic services referred to in paragraph (3).

(2) Agricultural labor

In the case of agricultural labor, the term "employer" means, with respect to any calendar year, any person who—

(A) during any calendar quarter in the calendar year or the preceding calendar year paid wages of \$20,000 or more for agricultural labor, or

(B) on each of some 20 days during the calendar year

or during the preceding calendar year, each day being in a different calendar week, employed at least 10 individuals in employment in agricultural labor for some portion of the day.

(3) Domestic service

In the case of domestic service in a private home, local college club, or local chapter of a college fraternity or sorority, the term "employer" means, with respect to any calendar year, any person who during any calendar quarter in the calendar year or the preceding calendar year paid wages in cash of \$1,000 or more for such service.

(4) Special rule

A person treated as an employer under paragraph (3) shall not be treated as an employer with respect to wages paid for any service other than domestic service referred to in paragraph (3) unless such person is treated as an employer under paragraph (1) or (2) with respect to such other service.

(b) Wages

For purposes of this chapter, the term "wages" means all remuneration for employment, including the cash value of all remuneration (including benefits) paid in any medium other than cash; except that such term shall not include—

(1) that part of the remuneration which, after remuneration (other than remuneration referred to in the succeeding paragraphs of this subsection) equal to \$7,000 with respect to employment has been paid to an individual by an employer during any calendar year, is paid to such individual by such employer during such calendar year. If an employer (hereinafter referred to as successor employer) during any calendar year acquires substantially all the property used in a trade or business of another employer (hereinafter referred to as a predecessor), or used in a separate unit of a trade or business of a predecessor, and immediately after the acquisition employs in his trade or business an individual who immediately prior to the acquisition was employed in the trade or business of such predecessor, then, for the purpose

of determining whether the successor employer has paid remuneration (other than remuneration referred to in the succeeding paragraphs of this subsection) with respect to employment equal to \$7,000 to such individual during such calendar year, any remuneration (other than remuneration referred to in the succeeding paragraphs of this subsection) with respect to employment paid (or considered under this paragraph as having been paid) to such individual by such predecessor during such calendar year and prior to such acquisition shall be considered as having been paid by such successor employer;

(2) the amount of any payment (including any amount paid by an employer for insurance or annuities, or into a fund, to provide for any such payment) made to, or on behalf of, an employee or any of his dependents under a plan or system established by an employer which makes provision for his employees generally (or for his employees generally and their dependents) or for a class or classes of his employees (or for a class or classes of his employees and their dependents), on account of—

(A) sickness or accident disability (but, in the case of payments made to an employee or any of his dependents, this subparagraph shall exclude from the term "wages" only payments which are received under a workmen's compensation law), or

(B) medical or hospitalization expenses in connection with sickness or accident disability, or

(C) death;

[(3) Repealed. Pub. L. 98-21, title III, § 324(b)(3)(B), Apr. 20, 1983, 97 Stat. 124]

(4) any payment on account of sickness or accident disability, or medical or hospitalization expenses in connection with sickness or accident disability, made by an employer to, or on behalf of, an employee after the expiration of 6 calendar months following the last calendar month in which the employee worked for such employer;

(5) any payment made to, or on behalf of, an employee or his beneficiary—

- (A)** from or to a trust described in section 401 (a) which is exempt from tax under section 501 (a) at the time of such payment unless such payment is made to an employee of the trust as remuneration for services rendered as such employee and not as a beneficiary of the trust, or
- (B)** under or to an annuity plan which, at the time of such payment, is a plan described in section 403 (a),
- (C)** under a simplified employee pension (as defined in section 408 (k)(1)), other than any contributions described in section 408 (k)(6),
- (D)** under or to an annuity contract described in section 403 (b), other than a payment for the purchase of such contract which is made by reason of a salary reduction agreement (whether evidenced by a written instrument or otherwise),
- (E)** under or to an exempt governmental deferred compensation plan (as defined in section 3121 (v)(3)),
- (F)** to supplement pension benefits under a plan or trust described in any of the foregoing provisions of this paragraph to take into account some portion or all of the increase in the cost of living (as determined by the Secretary of Labor) since retirement but only if such supplemental payments are under a plan which is treated as a welfare plan under section 3(2)(B)(ii) of the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974; [1]
- (G)** under a cafeteria plan (within the meaning of section 125) if such payment would not be treated as wages without regard to such plan and it is reasonable to believe that (if section 125 applied for purposes of this section) section 125 would not treat any wages as constructively received, or
- (H)** under an arrangement to which section 408 (p) applies, other than any elective contributions under paragraph (2)(A)(i) thereof, [2]
- (6)** the payment by an employer (without deduction from the remuneration of the employee)—

(A) of the tax imposed upon an employee under section 3101, or

(B) of any payment required from an employee under a State unemployment compensation law,

with respect to remuneration paid to an employee for domestic service in a private home of the employer or for agricultural labor;

(7) remuneration paid in any medium other than cash to an employee for service not in the course of the employer's trade or business;

[(8) Repealed. Pub. L. 98-21, title III, § 324(b)(3)(B), Apr. 20, 1983, 97 Stat. 124]

(9) remuneration paid to or on behalf of an employee if (and to the extent that) at the time of the payment of such remuneration it is reasonable to believe that a corresponding deduction is allowable under section 217 (determined without regard to section 274 (n));

(10) any payment or series of payments by an employer to an employee or any of his dependents which is paid—

(A) upon or after the termination of an employee's employment relationship because of

(i) death, or

(ii) retirement for disability, and

(B) under a plan established by the employer which makes provision for his employees generally or a class or classes of his employees (or for such employees or class or classes of employees and their dependents),

other than any such payment or series of payments which would have been paid if the employee's employment relationship had not been so terminated;

(11) remuneration for agricultural labor paid in any medium other than cash;

(12) any contribution, payment, or service, provided by an employer which may be excluded from the gross income of

an employee, his spouse, or his dependents, under the provisions of section 120 (relating to amounts received under qualified group legal services plans);

(13) any payment made, or benefit furnished, to or for the benefit of an employee if at the time of such payment or such furnishing it is reasonable to believe that the employee will be able to exclude such payment or benefit from income under section 127, 129, 134 (b)(4), or 134 (b)(5);

(14) the value of any meals or lodging furnished by or on behalf of the employer if at the time of such furnishing it is reasonable to believe that the employee will be able to exclude such items from income under section 119;

(15) any payment made by an employer to a survivor or the estate of a former employee after the calendar year in which such employee died;

(16) any benefit provided to or on behalf of an employee if at the time such benefit is provided it is reasonable to believe that the employee will be able to exclude such benefit from income under section 74 (c), 108 (f)(4), 117, or 132;

(17) any payment made to or for the benefit of an employee if at the time of such payment it is reasonable to believe that the employee will be able to exclude such payment from income under section 106 (b);

(18) any payment made to or for the benefit of an employee if at the time of such payment it is reasonable to believe that the employee will be able to exclude such payment from income under section 106 (d); or

(19) remuneration on account of—

(A) a transfer of a share of stock to any individual pursuant to an exercise of an incentive stock option (as defined in section 422 (b)) or under an employee stock purchase plan (as defined in section 423 (b)), or

(B) any disposition by the individual of such stock.

Except as otherwise provided in regulations prescribed by the Secretary, any third party which makes a payment included in wages solely by reason of the parenthetical matter contained in subparagraph (A) of paragraph (2) shall be

treated for purposes of this chapter and chapter 22 as the employer with respect to such wages. Nothing in the regulations prescribed for purposes of chapter 24 (relating to income tax withholding) which provides an exclusion from "wages" as used in such chapter shall be construed to require a similar exclusion from "wages" in the regulations prescribed for purposes of this chapter.

(c) Employment

For purposes of this chapter, the term "employment" means any service performed prior to 1955, which was employment for purposes of subchapter C of chapter 9 of the Internal Revenue Code of 1939 under the law applicable to the period in which such service was performed, and

(A) any service, of whatever nature, performed after 1954 by an employee for the person employing him, irrespective of the citizenship or residence of either,

(i) within the United States, or

(ii) on or in connection with an American vessel or American aircraft under a contract of service which is entered into within the United States or during the performance of which and while the employee is employed on the vessel or aircraft it touches at a port in the United States, if the employee is employed on and in connection with such vessel or aircraft when outside the United States, and

(B) any service, of whatever nature, performed after 1971 outside the United States (except in a contiguous country with which the United States has an agreement relating to unemployment compensation) by a citizen of the United States as an employee of an American employer (as defined in subsection (j)(3)), except—

(1) agricultural labor (as defined in subsection (k)) unless—

(A) such labor is performed for a person who—

(i) during any calendar quarter in the calendar year or the preceding calendar year paid remuneration in cash of \$20,000 or more to individuals employed in agricultural labor (including labor performed by an

alien referred to in subparagraph (B)), or

(ii) on each of some 20 days during the calendar year or the preceding calendar year, each day being in a different calendar week, employed in agricultural labor (including labor performed by an alien referred to in subparagraph (B)) for some portion of the day (whether or not at the same moment of time) 10 or more individuals; and

(B) such labor is not agricultural labor performed by an individual who is an alien admitted to the United States to perform agricultural labor pursuant to sections 214(c) and 101(a)(15)(H) of the Immigration and Nationality Act;

(2) domestic service in a private home, local college club, or local chapter of a college fraternity or sorority unless performed for a person who paid cash remuneration of \$1,000 or more to individuals employed in such domestic service in any calendar quarter in the calendar year or the preceding calendar year;

(3) service not in the course of the employer's trade or business performed in any calendar quarter by an employee, unless the cash remuneration paid for such service is \$50 or more and such service is performed by an individual who is regularly employed by such employer to perform such service. For purposes of this paragraph, an individual shall be deemed to be regularly employed by an employer during a calendar quarter only if—

(A) on each of some 24 days during such quarter such individual performs for such employer for some portion of the day service not in the course of the employer's trade or business, or

(B) such individual was regularly employed (as determined under subparagraph (A)) by such employer in the performance of such service during the preceding calendar quarter;

(4) service performed on or in connection with a vessel or aircraft not an American vessel or American aircraft, if the

employee is employed on and in connection with such vessel or aircraft when outside the United States;

(5) service performed by an individual in the employ of his son, daughter, or spouse, and service performed by a child under the age of 21 in the employ of his father or mother;

(6) service performed in the employ of the United States Government or of an instrumentality of the United States which is—

(A) wholly or partially owned by the United States, or

(B) exempt from the tax imposed by section 3301 by virtue of any provision of law which specifically refers to such section (or the corresponding section of prior law) in granting such exemption;

(7) service performed in the employ of a State, or any political subdivision thereof, or in the employ of an Indian tribe, or any instrumentality of any one or more of the foregoing which is wholly owned by one or more States or political subdivisions or Indian tribes; and any service performed in the employ of any instrumentality of one or more States or political subdivisions to the extent that the instrumentality is, with respect to such service, immune under the Constitution of the United States from the tax imposed by section 3301;

(8) service performed in the employ of a religious, charitable, educational, or other organization described in section 501 (c)(3) which is exempt from income tax under section 501 (a);

(9) service performed by an individual as an employee or employee representative as defined in section 1 of the Railroad Unemployment Insurance Act (45 U.S.C. 351);

(10)

(A) service performed in any calendar quarter in the employ of any organization exempt from income tax under section 501 (a) (other than an organization described in section 401 (a)) or under section 521, if the remuneration for such service is less than \$50, or

(B) service performed in the employ of a school,

college, or university, if such service is performed

(i) by a student who is enrolled and is regularly attending classes at such school, college, or university, or

(ii) by the spouse of such a student, if such spouse is advised, at the time such spouse commences to perform such service, that

(I) the employment of such spouse to perform such service is provided under a program to provide financial assistance to such student by such school, college, or university, and

(II) such employment will not be covered by any program of unemployment insurance, or

(C) service performed by an individual who is enrolled at a nonprofit or public educational institution which normally maintains a regular faculty and curriculum and normally has a regularly organized body of students in attendance at the place where its educational activities are carried on as a student in a full-time program; taken for credit at such institution, which combines academic instruction with work experience, if such service is an integral part of such program, and such institution has so certified to the employer, except that this subparagraph shall not apply to service performed in a program established for or on behalf of an employer or group of employers, or

(D) service performed in the employ of a hospital, if such service is performed by a patient of such hospital;

(11) service performed in the employ of a foreign government (including service as a consular or other officer or employee or a nondiplomatic representative);

(12) service performed in the employ of an instrumentality wholly owned by a foreign government—

(A) if the service is of a character similar to that performed in foreign countries by employees of the United States Government or of an instrumentality

thereof; and

(B) if the Secretary of State shall certify to the Secretary of the Treasury that the foreign government, with respect to whose instrumentality exemption is claimed, grants an equivalent exemption with respect to similar service performed in the foreign country by employees of the United States Government and of instrumentalities thereof;

(13) service performed as a student nurse in the employ of a hospital or a nurses' training school by an individual who is enrolled and is regularly attending classes in a nurses' training school chartered or approved pursuant to State law; and service performed as an intern in the employ of a hospital by an individual who has completed a 4 years' course in a medical school chartered or approved pursuant to State law;

(14) service performed by an individual for a person as an insurance agent or as an insurance solicitor, if all such service performed by such individual for such person is performed for remuneration solely by way of commission;

(15)

(A) service performed by an individual under the age of 18 in the delivery or distribution of newspapers or shopping news, not including delivery or distribution to any point for subsequent delivery or distribution;

(B) service performed by an individual in, and at the time of, the sale of newspapers or magazines to ultimate consumers, under an arrangement under which the newspapers or magazines are to be sold by him at a fixed price, his compensation being based on the retention of the excess of such price over the amount at which the newspapers or magazines are charged to him, whether or not he is guaranteed a minimum amount of compensation for such service, or is entitled to be credited with the unsold newspapers or magazines turned back;

(16) service performed in the employ of an international organization;

(17) service performed by an individual in (or as an officer or member of the crew of a vessel while it is engaged in) the catching, taking, harvesting, cultivating, or farming of any kind of fish, shellfish, crustacea, sponges, seaweeds, or other aquatic forms of animal and vegetable life (including service performed by any such individual as an ordinary incident to any such activity), except—

(A) service performed in connection with the catching or taking of salmon or halibut, for commercial purposes, and

(B) service performed on or in connection with a vessel of more than 10 net tons (determined in the manner provided for determining the register tonnage of merchant vessels under the laws of the United States);

(18) service described in section 3121 (b)(20);

(19) Service ^[3] which is performed by a nonresident alien individual for the period he is temporarily present in the United States as a nonimmigrant under subparagraph (F), (J), (M), or (Q) of section 101(a)(15) of the Immigration and Nationality Act, as amended (8 U.S.C. 1101 (a)(15)(F), (J), (M), or (Q)), and which is performed to carry out the purpose specified in subparagraph (F), (J), (M), or (Q), as the case may be;

(20) service performed by a full time student (as defined in subsection (q)) in the employ of an organized camp—

(A) if such camp—

(i) did not operate for more than 7 months in the calendar year and did not operate for more than 7 months in the preceding calendar year, or

(ii) had average gross receipts for any 6 months in the preceding calendar year which were not more than 331/3 percent of its average gross receipts for the other 6 months in the preceding calendar year; and

(B) if such full time student performed services in the employ of such camp for less than 13 calendar weeks in such calendar year; or

(21) service performed by a person committed to a penal institution.

(d) Included and excluded service

For purposes of this chapter, if the services performed during one-half or more of any pay period by an employee for the person employing him constitute employment, all the services of such employee for such period shall be deemed to be employment; but if the services performed during more than one-half of any such pay period by an employee for the person employing him do not constitute employment, then none of the services of such employee for such period shall be deemed to be employment. As used in this subsection, the term "pay period" means a period (of not more than 31 consecutive days) for which a payment of remuneration is ordinarily made to the employee by the person employing him. This subsection shall not be applicable with respect to services performed in a pay period by an employee for the person employing him, where any of such service is excepted by subsection (c)(9).

(e) State agency

For purposes of this chapter, the term "State agency" means any State officer, board, or other authority, designated under a State law to administer the unemployment fund in such State.

(f) Unemployment fund

For purposes of this chapter, the term "unemployment fund" means a special fund, established under a State law and administered by a State agency, for the payment of compensation. Any sums standing to the account of the State agency in the Unemployment Trust Fund established by section 904 of the Social Security Act, as amended (42 U.S.C. 1104), shall be deemed to be a part of the unemployment fund of the State, and no sums paid out of the Unemployment Trust Fund to such State agency shall cease to be a part of the unemployment fund of the State until expended by such State agency. An unemployment fund shall be deemed to be maintained during a taxable year only if throughout such year, or such portion of the year as the unemployment fund was in

existence, no part of the moneys of such fund was expended for any purpose other than the payment of compensation (exclusive of expenses of administration) and for refunds of sums erroneously paid into such fund and refunds paid in accordance with the provisions of section 3305 (b); except that—

- (1)** an amount equal to the amount of employee payments into the unemployment fund of a State may be used in the payment of cash benefits to individuals with respect to their disability, exclusive of expenses of administration;
- (2)** the amounts specified by section 903(c)(2) or 903(d)(4) of the Social Security Act may, subject to the conditions prescribed in such section, be used for expenses incurred by the State for administration of its unemployment compensation law and public employment offices,^[4]
- (3)** nothing in this subsection shall be construed to prohibit deducting any amount from unemployment compensation otherwise payable to an individual and using the amount so deducted to pay for health insurance, or the withholding of Federal, State, or local individual income tax, if the individual elected to have such deduction made and such deduction was made under a program approved by the Secretary of Labor;
- (4)** amounts may be deducted from unemployment benefits and used to repay overpayments as provided in section 303 (g) of the Social Security Act;
- (5)** ^[5] amounts may be withdrawn for the payment of short-time compensation under a plan approved by the Secretary of Labor; and
- (5)** ^[5] amounts may be withdrawn for the payment of allowances under a self-employment assistance program (as defined in subsection (t)).

(g) Contributions

For purposes of this chapter, the term "contributions" means payments required by a State law to be made into an unemployment fund by any person on account of having individuals in his employ, to the extent that such payments are made by him without being deducted or deductible from the

remuneration of individuals in his employ.

(h) Compensation

For purposes of this chapter, the term "compensation" means cash benefits payable to individuals with respect to their unemployment.

(i) Employee

For purposes of this chapter, the term "employee" has the meaning assigned to such term by section 3121 (d), except that paragraph (4) and subparagraphs (B) and (C) of paragraph (3) shall not apply.

(j) State, United States, and American employer

For purposes of this chapter—

(1) State

The term "State" includes the District of Columbia, the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, and the Virgin Islands.

(2) United States

The term "United States" when used in a geographical sense includes the States, the District of Columbia, the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, and the Virgin Islands.

(3) American employer

The term "American employer" means a person who is—

- (A)** an individual who is a resident of the United States,
- (B)** a partnership, if two-thirds or more of the partners are residents of the United States,
- (C)** a trust, if all of the trustees are residents of the United States, or
- (D)** a corporation organized under the laws of the United States or of any State.

An individual who is a citizen of the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico or the Virgin Islands (but not otherwise a citizen of the United States) shall be considered, for purposes of this

section, as a citizen of the United States.

(k) Agricultural labor

For purposes of this chapter, the term "agricultural labor" has the meaning assigned to such term by subsection (g) of section 3121, except that for purposes of this chapter subparagraph (B) of paragraph (4) of such subsection (g) shall be treated as reading:

"(B) in the employ of a group of operators of farms (or a cooperative organization of which such operators are members) in the performance of service described in subparagraph (A), but only if such operators produced more than one-half of the commodity with respect to which such service is performed;"

[(I) Repealed. Sept. 1, 1954, ch. 1212, § 4(c), 68 Stat. 1135]

(m) American vessel and aircraft

For purposes of this chapter, the term "American vessel" means any vessel documented or numbered under the laws of the United States; and includes any vessel which is neither documented or numbered under the laws of the United States nor documented under the laws of any foreign country, if its crew is employed solely by one or more citizens or residents of the United States or corporations organized under the laws of the United States or of any State; and the term "American aircraft" means an aircraft registered under the laws of the United States.

(n) Vessels operated by general agents of United States

Notwithstanding the provisions of subsection (c)(6), service performed by officers and members of the crew of a vessel which would otherwise be included as employment under subsection (c) shall not be excluded by reason of the fact that it is performed on or in connection with an American vessel—

- (1) owned by or bareboat chartered to the United States and
- (2) whose business is conducted by a general agent of the Secretary of Commerce.

For purposes of this chapter, each such general agent shall be considered a legal entity in his capacity as such general agent, separate and distinct from his identity as a person employing individuals on his own account, and the officers and members of the crew of such an American vessel whose business is conducted by a general agent of the Secretary of Commerce shall be deemed to be performing services for such general agent rather than the United States. Each such general agent who in his capacity as such is an employer within the meaning of subsection (a) shall be subject to all the requirements imposed upon an employer under this chapter with respect to service which constitutes employment by reason of this subsection.

(o) Special rule in case of certain agricultural workers

(1) Crew leaders who are registered or provide specialized agricultural labor

For purposes of this chapter, any individual who is a member of a crew furnished by a crew leader to perform agricultural labor for any other person shall be treated as an employee of such crew leader—

(A) if—

(i) such crew leader holds a valid certificate of registration under the Migrant and Seasonal Agricultural Worker Protection Act; or

(ii) substantially all the members of such crew operate or maintain tractors, mechanized harvesting or crop-dusting equipment, or any other mechanized equipment, which is provided by such crew leader; and

(B) if such individual is not an employee of such other person within the meaning of subsection (i).

(2) Other crew leaders

For purposes of this chapter, in the case of any individual who is furnished by a crew leader to perform agricultural labor for any other person and who is not treated as an employee of such crew leader under paragraph (1)—

(A) such other person and not the crew leader shall be

treated as the employer of such individual; and

(B) such other person shall be treated as having paid cash remuneration to such individual in an amount equal to the amount of cash remuneration paid to such individual by the crew leader (either on his behalf or on behalf of such other person) for the agricultural labor performed for such other person.

(3) Crew leader

For purposes of this subsection, the term "crew leader" means an individual who—

(A) furnishes individuals to perform agricultural labor for any other person,

(B) pays (either on his behalf or on behalf of such other person) the individuals so furnished by him for the agricultural labor performed by them, and

(C) has not entered into a written agreement with such other person under which such individual is designated as an employee of such other person.

(p) Concurrent employment by two or more employers

For purposes of sections 3301, 3302, and 3306 (b)(1), if two or more related corporations concurrently employ the same individual and compensate such individual through a common paymaster which is one of such corporations, each such corporation shall be considered to have paid as remuneration to such individual only the amounts actually disbursed by it to such individual and shall not be considered to have paid as remuneration to such individual amounts actually disbursed to such individual by another of such corporations.

(q) Full time student

For purposes of subsection (c)(20), an individual shall be treated as a full time student for any period—

(1) during which the individual is enrolled as a full time student at an educational institution, or

(2) which is between academic years or terms if—

this chapter.

(C) Nonqualified deferred compensation plan

For purposes of this paragraph, the term "nonqualified deferred compensation plan" means any plan or other arrangement for deferral of compensation other than a plan described in subsection (b)(5).

(s) Tips treated as wages

For purposes of this chapter, the term "wages" includes tips which are—

- (1)** received while performing services which constitute employment, and
- (2)** included in a written statement furnished to the employer pursuant to section 6053 (a).

(t) Self-employment assistance program

For the purposes of this chapter, the term "self-employment assistance program" means a program under which—

- (1)** individuals who meet the requirements described in paragraph (3) are eligible to receive an allowance in lieu of regular unemployment compensation under the State law for the purpose of assisting such individuals in establishing a business and becoming self-employed;
- (2)** the allowance payable to individuals pursuant to paragraph (1) is payable in the same amount, at the same interval, on the same terms, and subject to the same conditions, as regular unemployment compensation under the State law, except that—
 - (A)** State requirements relating to availability for work, active search for work, and refusal to accept work are not applicable to such individuals;
 - (B)** State requirements relating to disqualifying income are not applicable to income earned from self-employment by such individuals; and
 - (C)** such individuals are considered to be unemployed for the purposes of Federal and State laws applicable to

unemployment compensation,

as long as such individuals meet the requirements applicable under this subsection;

(3) individuals may receive the allowance described in paragraph (1) if such individuals—

(A) are eligible to receive regular unemployment compensation under the State law, or would be eligible to receive such compensation except for the requirements described in subparagraph (A) or (B) of paragraph (2);

(B) are identified pursuant to a State worker profiling system as individuals likely to exhaust regular unemployment compensation; and

(C) are participating in self-employment assistance activities which—

(i) include entrepreneurial training, business counseling, and technical assistance; and

(ii) are approved by the State agency; and

(D) are actively engaged on a full-time basis in activities (which may include training) relating to the establishment of a business and becoming self-employed;

(4) the aggregate number of individuals receiving the allowance under the program does not at any time exceed 5 percent of the number of individuals receiving regular unemployment compensation under the State law at such time;

(5) the program does not result in any cost to the Unemployment Trust Fund (established by section 904(a) of the Social Security Act) in excess of the cost that would be incurred by such State and charged to such Fund if the State had not participated in such program; and

(6) the program meets such other requirements as the Secretary of Labor determines to be appropriate.

(u) Indian tribe

For purposes of this chapter, the term "Indian tribe" has the meaning given to such term by section 4(e) of the Indian Self-Determination and Education Assistance Act (25 U.S.C. 450b (e)), and includes any subdivision, subsidiary, or business enterprise wholly owned by such an Indian tribe.

- [1] So in original. The semicolon probably should be a comma.
- [2] So in original. The comma probably should be a semicolon.
- [3] So in original. Probably should not be capitalized.
- [4] So in original. The comma probably should be a semicolon.
- [5] So in original. Two pars. (5) have been enacted.

U.S. Department of Labor



Employment and Training Administration

Region 6 San Francisco

90 7th Street, Suite 17300
San Francisco, CA 94103

FEB 03 2009

Mr. Clark Bishop
Commissioner
Alaska Department of Labor & Workforce Development
P.O. Box 21149
Juneau, AK 99802-1149

Dear Commissioner Bishop:

By letter dated February 12, 2008, Atkinson to Bishop, we advised you of the need for the State of Alaska to enact conforming legislation arising from the passage of the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2001. This legislation amended the Federal Unemployment Tax Act (FUTA) to change the treatment of services performed for federally recognized "Indian tribes." We have enclosed a copy of this letter which provides a complete discussion of the issues and remedy.

On February 26, 2008, you wrote to inform us of your agency's desire to be in full compliance with Federal law and regulation, and that you would work diligently to resolve the issue. Now that Alaska's state legislature is in session, we are writing to advise this continues to be an issue and to encourage you to pursue conforming legislation.

As our earlier letter informed, failure to enact the necessary legislation could, after an opportunity for a hearing and appeal, result in the loss of the full FUTA credit (5.4%) for all employers in the state, as well as the loss of Federal UC administrative grants. Therefore it is extremely important to pass this conforming legislation as soon as possible.

Please inform us of your specific plans to obtain legislation to ensure that Alaska's law conforms to the requirements of Federal UC law. If you have any questions concerning this issue, please contact your Regional Office's UI legislation specialist, Pat O'Neal, at 415-625-7926 or oneal.pat@dol.gov.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Richard C. Ugg", written over a circular stamp or seal.

Richard C. Ugg
Regional Administrator

cc: Bill Kramer, Chief of Unemployment Insurance, via e-mail a bill.kramer@alaska.gov

Enclosure

DEPARTMENT OF LABOR AND WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT
OFFICE OF THE COMMISSIONER

Sarah Palin, Governor

P. O. Box 111149
Juneau, AK 99811-1149

PHONE: (907) 465-2700
FAX: (907) 465-2784

February 26, 2008

Ms. Cheryl Atkinson, Administrator
Office of Workforce Security
Employment and Training Administration
200 Constitution Avenue N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20210

Dear Ms. Atkinson:

I am in receipt of your letter dated February 12, 2008 and would like to take this opportunity to thank you for bringing to my attention the matter regarding unemployment compensation services for Alaska's Native entities.

Alaska's legislative session is limited to 90 days, January 15 through April 13, 2008. Since the deadline for personal legislation for the current session has passed, the Department will be pursuing the required statutory changes during the 2009 legislative session.

I would like to point out that Alaska is currently meeting some of the federal requirements.

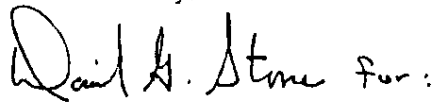
- Alaska has always required that services performed for tribal entities be covered for unemployment insurance purposes
- Alaska Department of Labor and Workforce Development currently reports tribal delinquencies to the Internal Revenue Service on a quarterly basis.
- Alaska has not paid any extended benefits since 2005, and will work to ensure tribal entities are billed 100 percent of any future extended benefits.

Alaska law currently does not give tribes the option of choosing the reimbursable method of payment as our law limits the option to specific non-profit and government entities. The Department suspects, as was the case in 2002, tribal entities currently reporting may actually pay less in contributions than would be billed for reimbursement. The economic incentives will likely argue powerfully for tribes to remain as taxable employers.

Ms. Cheryl Atkinson, Administrator
February 26, 2008
Page 2

It is the State of Alaska's desire to be in full compliance with Federal law and regulation, and we will work diligently to resolve this issue. If you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,

Handwritten signature of Clark Bishop in cursive script, followed by the text "for:"

Clark Bishop
Commissioner

cc: Pat O'Neil, Office of Systems Performance, Workforce Security
Region 6, Legislation and Appeals

U.S. Department of Labor

FEB 12 2002

Mr. Chuck Bishop
Commissioner
Alaska Department of Labor & Workforce Development
P.O. Box 21149
Juneau, AK 99802-1149

Dear Commissioner Bishop:

I am writing to remind you of the need for Alaska to amend its state unemployment compensation (UC) law to provide that services for Alaska's Native entities are covered under your state law and that these entities are offered the reimbursement option. A more detailed description of the issue follows.

The Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2001 (CAA, Public Law 106-514) amended the Federal Unemployment Tax Act (FUTA) to change the treatment of services performed for federally recognized "Indian tribes." For purposes of these amendments, "any Alaska Native village or regional or village corporation as defined in or established pursuant to the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act . . ." is included in the definition of "Indian tribe." (See Section 3306(c), FUTA, as amended, which refers to the definition of "Indian tribe" in Section 4(e) of the Indian Self-Determination and Education Assistance Act.)

For purposes of your state's (C) laws, these amendments mean that:

- Services performed in the employ of Alaska Native entities are, with specified exceptions, required to be covered under state (C) laws; and
- Alaska Native entities must be offered the opportunity to reimburse the state unemployment fund for (C) attributable under state law to such services in lieu of making contributions.

I also note that, although no change was required to state law, these amendments also resulted in states no longer being eligible for the Federal share of extended benefit payments based on services performed in the employ of Alaskan Native entities.

A complete explanation of these Federal law amendments is found in Unemployment Insurance Program Letter No. 14-01, (69 Fed. Reg. 16965, March 31, 2004). In brief, Section 3304(a)(6)(A), FUTA, requires, as a condition for employers in a state to receive credit against the Federal unemployment tax, that state law provide that (C) be payable on the basis of certain services. These services are described in Section 3309(a)(1), FUTA, which in turn references Section 306(e)(7), FUTA, which now includes services

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U.S. Department of Labor
Washington, D.C. 20460

performed for federally recognized Indian tribes, including Alaska Native entities. Thus, UC must be payable based on these services.

Regarding reimbursements, Section 3304(a)(6)(B), FUTA, requires that state law provide for funding the benefit costs of UC based on these services through "payments (in lieu of contributions)," commonly called "reimbursements." As a result of the CAA amendments, Alaska Native entities must now be offered the reimbursement option. Please note that the reimbursement option may only be offered for services performed "in the employ of" an Alaskan Native entity. It does not apply to services performed for a private entity in native villages or for individuals or for private businesses owned by members of an Alaskan Native entity.

We had been holding these issues in abeyance as a result of Section 805 of Public Law 107-206 enacted in 2002. That section prohibited the Department from using appropriated funds to pursue the CAA amendments as they related to Alaska Native entities. Since that prohibition has expired, there is no longer a basis for holding this matter in abeyance. Failure to enact the necessary legislation could, after an opportunity for a hearing and appeal, result in the loss of the full FUTA credit (5.4%) for all employers in the state, as well as the loss of Federal UC administrative grants.

Please inform me of your plans to obtain legislation to ensure that Alaska's law conforms to the requirements of Federal UC law. Please provide a written response within thirty days of your receipt of this letter and provide a copy to your Regional Office. If you have any questions concerning this issue, please contact your Regional Office's legislative liaison, Pat O'Neal, at 415-625-7926 or oneal.pat@dol.gov.

Sincerely,



Cheryl Atkinson
Administrator,
Office of Workforce Security

cc: Richard C. Trigg
Regional Administrator
San Francisco

[Federal Register: April 4, 2008 (Volume 73, Number 66)]
[Notices]
[Page 18553-18557]
From the Federal Register Online via GPO Access [wais.access.gpo.gov]
[DOCID:fr04ap08-87]

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Bureau of Indian Affairs

Indian Entities Recognized and Eligible To Receive Services From
the United States Bureau of Indian Affairs

AGENCY: Bureau of Indian Affairs, Interior.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: This notice publishes the current list of 562 tribal entities recognized and eligible for funding and services from the Bureau of Indian Affairs by virtue of their status as Indian tribes. The list is updated from the notice published on March 22, 2007 (72 FR 13648).

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Daisy West, Bureau of Indian Affairs, Division of Tribal Government Services, Mail Stop 4513-MIB, 1849 C Street, NW., Washington, DC 20240. Telephone number: (202) 513-7641.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: This notice is published pursuant to Section 104 of the Act of November 2, 1994 (Pub. L. 103-454; 108 Stat. 4791, 4792), and in exercise of authority delegated to the Assistant Secretary--Indian Affairs under 25 U.S.C. 2 and 9 and 209 DM 8.

Published below is a list of federally acknowledged tribes in the contiguous 48 states and in Alaska.

One tribe became recognized since the last publication. The Mashpee Wampanoag Tribe was acknowledged under 25 CFR part 83. The final determination for Federal acknowledgment became effective on May 23, 2007. The list also contains several tribal name changes and corrections. To aid in identifying tribal name changes, the tribe's former name is included with the new tribal name. To aid in identifying corrections, the tribe's previously listed name is included with the tribal name. We will continue to list the tribe's former or previously listed name for several years before dropping the former or previously listed name from the list.

The listed entities are acknowledged to have the immunities and privileges available to other federally acknowledged Indian tribes by virtue of their government-to-government relationship with the United States as well as the responsibilities, powers, limitations, and obligations of such tribes. We have continued the practice of listing the Alaska Native entities separately solely for the purpose of facilitating identification of them and reference to them given the large number of complex Native names.

Dated: March 25, 2008.

Carl J. Artman,
Assistant Secretary--Indian Affairs.

Indian Tribal Entities Within the Contiguous 48 States Recognized and Eligible To Receive Services From the United States Bureau of Indian Affairs

Absentee-Shawnee Tribe of Indians of Oklahoma
Agua Caliente Band of Cahuilla Indians of the Agua Caliente Indian Reservation, California
Ak Chin Indian Community of the Maricopa (Ak Chin) Indian Reservation, Arizona
Alabama-Coushatta Tribes of Texas
Alabama-Quassarte Tribal Town, Oklahoma
Alturas Indian Rancheria, California
Apache Tribe of Oklahoma
Arapahoe Tribe of the Wind River Reservation, Wyoming
Aroostook Band of Micmac Indians of Maine
Assiniboine and Sioux Tribes of the Fort Peck Indian Reservation, Montana
Augustine Band of Cahuilla Indians, California (formerly the Augustine Band of Cahuilla Mission Indians of the Augustine Reservation)
Bad River Band of the Lake Superior Tribe of Chippewa Indians of the Bad River Reservation, Wisconsin
Bay Mills Indian Community, Michigan
Bear River Band of the Rohnerville Rancheria, California
Berry Creek Rancheria of Maidu Indians of California
Big Lagoon Rancheria, California
Big Pine Band of Owens Valley Paiute Shoshone Indians of the Big Pine Reservation, California
Big Sandy Rancheria of Mono Indians of California
Big Valley Band of Pomo Indians of the Big Valley Rancheria, California
Blackfeet Tribe of the Blackfeet Indian Reservation of Montana
Blue Lake Rancheria, California
Bridgeport Paiute Indian Colony of California
Buena Vista Rancheria of Me-Wuk Indians of California
Burns Paiute Tribe of the Burns Paiute Indian Colony of Oregon
Cabazon Band of Mission Indians, California
Cachil DeHe Band of Wintun Indians of the Colusa Indian Community of the Colusa Rancheria, California
Caddo Nation of Oklahoma
Cahuilla Band of Mission Indians of the Cahuilla Reservation, California
Cahto Indian Tribe of the Laytonville Rancheria, California
California Valley Miwok Tribe, California (formerly the Sheep Ranch Rancheria of Me-Wuk Indians of California)
Campo Band of Diegueno Mission Indians of the Campo Indian Reservation, California
Capitan Grande Band of Diegueno Mission Indians of California:
 Barona Group of Capitan Grande Band of Mission Indians of the Barona Reservation, California
 Viejas (Baron Long) Group of Capitan Grande Band of Mission Indians of the Viejas Reservation, California
Catawba Indian Nation (aka Catawba Tribe of South Carolina)
Cayuga Nation of New York
Cedarville Rancheria, California
Chemehuevi Indian Tribe of the Chemehuevi Reservation, California
Cher-Ae Heights Indian Community of the Trinidad Rancheria, California
Cherokee Nation, Oklahoma
Cheyenne and Arapaho Tribes, Oklahoma (formerly the Cheyenne-Arapaho Tribes of Oklahoma)
Cheyenne River Sioux Tribe of the Cheyenne River Reservation, South Dakota

[[Page 18554]]

Chickasaw Nation, Oklahoma
Chicken Ranch Rancheria of Me-Wuk Indians of California
Chippewa-Cree Indians of the Rocky Boy's Reservation, Montana
Chitimacha Tribe of Louisiana
Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma
Citizen Potawatomi Nation, Oklahoma
Cloverdale Rancheria of Pomo Indians of California
Cocopah Tribe of Arizona
Coeur D'Alene Tribe of the Coeur D'Alene Reservation, Idaho
Cold Springs Rancheria of Mono Indians of California
Colorado River Indian Tribes of the Colorado River Indian Reservation,
Arizona and California
Comanche Nation, Oklahoma
Confederated Salish & Kootenai Tribes of the Flathead Reservation,
Montana
Confederated Tribes of the Chehalis Reservation, Washington
Confederated Tribes of the Colville Reservation, Washington
Confederated Tribes of the Coos, Lower Umpqua and Siuslaw Indians of
Oregon
Confederated Tribes of the Goshute Reservation, Nevada and Utah
Confederated Tribes of the Grand Ronde Community of Oregon
Confederated Tribes of the Siletz Reservation, Oregon
Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Reservation, Oregon
Confederated Tribes of the Warm Springs Reservation of Oregon
Confederated Tribes and Bands of the Yakama Nation, Washington
Coquille Tribe of Oregon
Cortina Indian Rancheria of Wintun Indians of California
Coushatta Tribe of Louisiana
Cow Creek Band of Umpqua Indians of Oregon
Cowlitz Indian Tribe, Washington
Coyote Valley Band of Pomo Indians of California
Crow Tribe of Montana
Crow Creek Sioux Tribe of the Crow Creek Reservation, South Dakota
Death Valley Timbi-Sha Shoshone Band of California
Delaware Nation, Oklahoma
Dry Creek Rancheria of Pomo Indians of California
Duckwater Shoshone Tribe of the Duckwater Reservation, Nevada
Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians of North Carolina
Eastern Shawnee Tribe of Oklahoma
Elem Indian Colony of Pomo Indians of the Sulphur Bank Rancheria,
California
Elk Valley Rancheria, California
Ely Shoshone Tribe of Nevada
Enterprise Rancheria of Maidu Indians of California
Ewiiapaayp Band of Kumeyaay Indians, California
Federated Indians of Graton Rancheria, California
Flandreau Santee Sioux Tribe of South Dakota
Forest County Potawatomi Community, Wisconsin
Fort Belknap Indian Community of the Fort Belknap Reservation of
Montana
Fort Bidwell Indian Community of the Fort Bidwell Reservation of
California
Fort Independence Indian Community of Paiute Indians of the Fort
Independence Reservation, California
Fort McDermitt Paiute and Shoshone Tribes of the Fort McDermitt Indian
Reservation, Nevada and Oregon
Fort McDowell Yavapai Nation, Arizona

Fort Mojave Indian Tribe of Arizona, California & Nevada
Fort Sill Apache Tribe of Oklahoma
Gila River Indian Community of the Gila River Indian Reservation,
Arizona
Grand Traverse Band of Ottawa and Chippewa Indians, Michigan
Greenville Rancheria of Maidu Indians of California
Grindstone Indian Rancheria of Wintun-Wailaki Indians of California
Guidiville Rancheria of California
Habematolel Pomo of Upper Lake, California (formerly the Upper Lake
Band of Pomo Indians of Upper Lake Rancheria of California)
Hannahville Indian Community, Michigan
Havasupai Tribe of the Havasupai Reservation, Arizona
Ho-Chunk Nation of Wisconsin
Hoh Indian Tribe of the Hoh Indian Reservation, Washington
Hoopa Valley Tribe, California
Hopi Tribe of Arizona
Hopland Band of Pomo Indians of the Hopland Rancheria, California
Houlton Band of Maliseet Indians of Maine
Hualapai Indian Tribe of the Hualapai Indian Reservation, Arizona
Inaja Band of Diegueno Mission Indians of the Inaja and Cosmit
Reservation, California
Ione Band of Miwok Indians of California
Iowa Tribe of Kansas and Nebraska
Iowa Tribe of Oklahoma
Jackson Rancheria of Me-Wuk Indians of California
Jamestown S'Klallam Tribe of Washington
Jamul Indian Village of California
Jena Band of Choctaw Indians, Louisiana
Jicarilla Apache Nation, New Mexico
Kaibab Band of Paiute Indians of the Kaibab Indian Reservation, Arizona
Kalispel Indian Community of the Kalispel Reservation, Washington
Karuk Tribe of California
Kashia Band of Pomo Indians of the Stewarts Point Rancheria, California
Kaw Nation, Oklahoma
Keweenaw Bay Indian Community, Michigan
Kialegee Tribal Town, Oklahoma
Kickapoo Tribe of Indians of the Kickapoo Reservation in Kansas
Kickapoo Tribe of Oklahoma
Kickapoo Traditional Tribe of Texas
Kiowa Indian Tribe of Oklahoma
Klamath Tribes, Oregon (formerly the Klamath Indian Tribe of Oregon)
Kootenai Tribe of Idaho
La Jolla Band of Luiseno Mission Indians of the La Jolla Reservation,
California
La Posta Band of Diegueno Mission Indians of the La Posta Indian
Reservation, California
Lac Courte Oreilles Band of Lake Superior Chippewa Indians of Wisconsin
Lac du Flambeau Band of Lake Superior Chippewa Indians of the Lac du
Flambeau Reservation of Wisconsin
Lac Vieux Desert Band of Lake Superior Chippewa Indians, Michigan
Las Vegas Tribe of Paiute Indians of the Las Vegas Indian Colony,
Nevada
Little River Band of Ottawa Indians, Michigan
Little Traverse Bay Bands of Odawa Indians, Michigan
Lower Lake Rancheria, California
Los Coyotes Band of Cahuilla & Cupeno Indians of the Los Coyotes
Reservation, California
Lovelock Paiute Tribe of the Lovelock Indian Colony, Nevada
Lower Brule Sioux Tribe of the Lower Brule Reservation, South Dakota
Lower Elwha Tribal Community of the Lower Elwha Reservation, Washington

Lower Sioux Indian Community in the State of Minnesota
 Lummi Tribe of the Lummi Reservation, Washington
 Lytton Rancheria of California
 Makah Indian Tribe of the Makah Indian Reservation, Washington
 Manchester Band of Pomo Indians of the Manchester-Point Arena
 Rancheria, California
 Manzanita Band of Diegueno Mission Indians of the Manzanita
 Reservation, California
 Mashantucket Pequot Tribe of Connecticut
 Mashpee Wampanoag Tribe, Massachusetts
 Match-e-be-nash-she-wish Band of Pottawatomi Indians of Michigan
 Mechoopda Indian Tribe of Chico Rancheria, California

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Menominee Indian Tribe of Wisconsin
 Mesa Grande Band of Diegueno Mission Indians of the Mesa Grande
 Reservation, California
 Mescalero Apache Tribe of the Mescalero Reservation, New Mexico
 Miami Tribe of Oklahoma
 Miccosukee Tribe of Indians of Florida
 Middletown Rancheria of Pomo Indians of California
 Minnesota Chippewa Tribe, Minnesota (Six component reservations:
 Bois Forte Band (Nett Lake); Fond du Lac Band; Grand Portage Band;
 Leech Lake Band; Mille Lacs Band; White Earth Band)
 Mississippi Band of Choctaw Indians, Mississippi
 Moapa Band of Paiute Indians of the Moapa River Indian Reservation,
 Nevada
 Modoc Tribe of Oklahoma
 Mohegan Indian Tribe of Connecticut
 Mooretown Rancheria of Maidu Indians of California
 Morongo Band of Cahuilla Mission Indians of the Morongo Reservation,
 California
 Muckleshoot Indian Tribe of the Muckleshoot Reservation, Washington
 Muscogee (Creek) Nation, Oklahoma
 Narragansett Indian Tribe of Rhode Island
 Navajo Nation, Arizona, New Mexico & Utah
 Nez Perce Tribe, Idaho (previously listed as Nez Perce Tribe of Idaho)
 Nisqually Indian Tribe of the Nisqually Reservation, Washington
 Nooksack Indian Tribe of Washington
 Northern Cheyenne Tribe of the Northern Cheyenne Indian Reservation,
 Montana
 Northfork Rancheria of Mono Indians of California
 Northwestern Band of Shoshoni Nation of Utah (Washakie)
 Nottawaseppi Huron Band of the Potawatomi, Michigan (formerly the Huron
 Potawatomi, Inc.)
 Oglala Sioux Tribe of the Pine Ridge Reservation, South Dakota
 Ohkay Owingeh, New Mexico (formerly the Pueblo of San Juan)
 Omaha Tribe of Nebraska
 Oneida Nation of New York
 Oneida Tribe of Indians of Wisconsin
 Onondaga Nation of New York
 Osage Nation, Oklahoma (formerly the Osage Tribe)
 Ottawa Tribe of Oklahoma
 Otoe-Missouria Tribe of Indians, Oklahoma
 Paiute Indian Tribe of Utah (Cedar City Band of Paiutes, Kanosh Band of
 Paiutes, Koosharem Band of Paiutes, Indian Peaks Band of Paiutes, and
 Shivwits Band of Paiutes)
 Paiute-Shoshone Indians of the Bishop Community of the Bishop Colony,
 California

Paiute-Shoshone Tribe of the Fallon Reservation and Colony, Nevada
Paiute-Shoshone Indians of the Lone Pine Community of the Lone Pine
Reservation, California
Pala Band of Luiseno Mission Indians of the Pala Reservation,
California
Pascua Yaqui Tribe of Arizona
Paskenta Band of Nomlaki Indians of California
Passamaquoddy Tribe of Maine
Pauma Band of Luiseno Mission Indians of the Pauma & Yuima Reservation,
California
Pawnee Nation of Oklahoma
Pechanga Band of Luiseno Mission Indians of the Pechanga Reservation,
California
Penobscot Tribe of Maine
Peoria Tribe of Indians of Oklahoma
Picayune Rancheria of Chukchansi Indians of California
Pinoleville Pomo Nation, California (formerly the Pinoleville Rancheria
of Pomo Indians of California)
Pit River Tribe, California (includes XL Ranch, Big Bend, Likely,
Lookout, Montgomery Creek and Roaring Creek Rancherias)
Poarch Band of Creek Indians of Alabama
Pokagon Band of Potawatomi Indians, Michigan and Indiana
Ponca Tribe of Indians of Oklahoma
Ponca Tribe of Nebraska
Port Gamble Indian Community of the Port Gamble Reservation, Washington
Potter Valley Tribe, California (formerly the Potter Valley Rancheria
of Pomo Indians of California)
Prairie Band of Potawatomi Nation, Kansas
Prairie Island Indian Community in the State of Minnesota
Pueblo of Acoma, New Mexico
Pueblo of Cochiti, New Mexico
Pueblo of Jemez, New Mexico
Pueblo of Isleta, New Mexico
Pueblo of Laguna, New Mexico
Pueblo of Nambe, New Mexico
Pueblo of Picuris, New Mexico
Pueblo of Pojoaque, New Mexico
Pueblo of San Felipe, New Mexico
Pueblo of San Ildefonso, New Mexico
Pueblo of Sandia, New Mexico
Pueblo of Santa Ana, New Mexico
Pueblo of Santa Clara, New Mexico
Pueblo of Santo Domingo, New Mexico
Pueblo of Taos, New Mexico
Pueblo of Tesuque, New Mexico
Pueblo of Zia, New Mexico
Puyallup Tribe of the Puyallup Reservation, Washington
Pyramid Lake Paiute Tribe of the Pyramid Lake Reservation, Nevada
Quapaw Tribe of Indians, Oklahoma
Quartz Valley Indian Community of the Quartz Valley Reservation of
California
Quechan Tribe of the Fort Yuma Indian Reservation, California & Arizona
Quileute Tribe of the Quileute Reservation, Washington
Quinault Tribe of the Quinault Reservation, Washington
Ramona Band or Village of Cahuilla Mission Indians of California
Red Cliff Band of Lake Superior Chippewa Indians of Wisconsin
Red Lake Band of Chippewa Indians, Minnesota
Redding Rancheria, California
Redwood Valley Rancheria of Pomo Indians of California
Reno-Sparks Indian Colony, Nevada

Resighini Rancheria, California
 Rincon Band of Luiseno Mission Indians of the Rincon Reservation,
 California
 Robinson Rancheria of Pomo Indians of California
 Rosebud Sioux Tribe of the Rosebud Indian Reservation, South Dakota
 Round Valley Indian Tribes of the Round Valley Reservation, California
 Rumsey Indian Rancheria of Wintun Indians of California
 Sac & Fox Tribe of the Mississippi in Iowa
 Sac & Fox Nation of Missouri in Kansas and Nebraska
 Sac & Fox Nation, Oklahoma
 Saginaw Chippewa Indian Tribe of Michigan
 St. Croix Chippewa Indians of Wisconsin
 Saint Regis Mohawk Tribe, New York (formerly the St. Regis Band of
 Mohawk Indians of New York)
 Salt River Pima-Maricopa Indian Community of the Salt River
 Reservation, Arizona
 Samish Indian Tribe, Washington
 San Carlos Apache Tribe of the San Carlos Reservation, Arizona
 San Juan Southern Paiute Tribe of Arizona
 San Manual Band of Serrano Mission Indians of the San Manual
 Reservation, California
 San Pasqual Band of Diegueno Mission Indians of California
 Santa Rosa Indian Community of the Santa Rosa Rancheria, California
 Santa Rosa Band of Cahuilla Indians, California (formerly the Santa
 Rosa Band of Cahuilla Mission Indians of the Santa Rosa Reservation)
 Santa Ynez Band of Chumash Mission Indians of the Santa Ynez
 Reservation, California
 Santa Ysabel Band of Diegueno Mission Indians of the Santa Ysabel
 Reservation, California

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Santee Sioux Nation, Nebraska
 Sauk-Suiattle Indian Tribe of Washington
 Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians of Michigan
 Scotts Valley Band of Pomo Indians of California
 Seminole Nation of Oklahoma
 Seminole Tribe of Florida (Dania, Big Cypress, Brighton, Hollywood &
 Tampa Reservations)
 Seneca Nation of New York
 Seneca-Cayuga Tribe of Oklahoma
 Shakopee Mdewakanton Sioux Community of Minnesota
 Shawnee Tribe, Oklahoma
 Sherwood Valley Rancheria of Pomo Indians of California
 Shingle Springs Band of Miwok Indians, Shingle Springs Rancheria
 (Verona Tract), California
 Shoalwater Bay Tribe of the Shoalwater Bay Indian Reservation,
 Washington
 Shoshone Tribe of the Wind River Reservation, Wyoming
 Shoshone-Bannock Tribes of the Fort Hall Reservation of Idaho
 Shoshone-Paiute Tribes of the Duck Valley Reservation, Nevada
 Sisseton-Wahpeton Oyate of the Lake Traverse Reservation, South Dakota
 Skokomish Indian Tribe of the Skokomish Reservation, Washington
 Skull Valley Band of Goshute Indians of Utah
 Smith River Rancheria, California
 Snoqualmie Tribe, Washington
 Soboba Band of Luiseno Indians, California
 Sokaogon Chippewa Community, Wisconsin
 Southern Ute Indian Tribe of the Southern Ute Reservation, Colorado
 Spirit Lake Tribe, North Dakota

Spokane Tribe of the Spokane Reservation, Washington
 Squaxin Island Tribe of the Squaxin Island Reservation, Washington
 Standing Rock Sioux Tribe of North & South Dakota
 Stockbridge Munsee Community, Wisconsin
 Stillaguamish Tribe of Washington
 Summit Lake Paiute Tribe of Nevada
 Suquamish Indian Tribe of the Port Madison Reservation, Washington
 Susanville Indian Rancheria, California
 Swinomish Indians of the Swinomish Reservation, Washington
 Sycuan Band of the Kumeyaay Nation (formerly the Sycuan Band of Diegueno Mission Indians of California)
 Table Mountain Rancheria of California
 Te-Moak Tribe of Western Shoshone Indians of Nevada (Four constituent bands: Battle Mountain Band; Elko Band; South Fork Band and Wells Band)
 Thlopthlocco Tribal Town, Oklahoma
 Three Affiliated Tribes of the Fort Berthold Reservation, North Dakota
 Tohono O'odham Nation of Arizona
 Tonawanda Band of Seneca Indians of New York
 Tonkawa Tribe of Indians of Oklahoma
 Tonto Apache Tribe of Arizona
 Torres Martinez Desert Cahuilla Indians, California (formerly the Torres-Martinez Band of Cahuilla Mission Indians of California)
 Tule River Indian Tribe of the Tule River Reservation, California
 Tulalip Tribes of the Tulalip Reservation, Washington
 Tunica-Biloxi Indian Tribe of Louisiana
 Tuolumne Band of Me-Wuk Indians of the Tuolumne Rancheria of California
 Turtle Mountain Band of Chippewa Indians of North Dakota
 Tuscarora Nation of New York
 Twenty-Nine Palms Band of Mission Indians of California
 United Auburn Indian Community of the Auburn Rancheria of California
 United Keetoowah Band of Cherokee Indians in Oklahoma
 Upper Sioux Community, Minnesota
 Upper Skagit Indian Tribe of Washington
 Ute Indian Tribe of the Uintah & Ouray Reservation, Utah
 Ute Mountain Tribe of the Ute Mountain Reservation, Colorado, New Mexico & Utah
 Utu Utu Gwaitu Paiute Tribe of the Benton Paiute Reservation, California
 Walker River Paiute Tribe of the Walker River Reservation, Nevada
 Wampanoag Tribe of Gay Head (Aquinnah) of Massachusetts
 Washoe Tribe of Nevada & California (Carson Colony, Dresslerville Colony, Woodfords Community, Stewart Community, & Washoe Ranches)
 White Mountain Apache Tribe of the Fort Apache Reservation, Arizona
 Wichita and Affiliated Tribes (Wichita, Keechi, Waco & Tawakonie), Oklahoma
 Winnebago Tribe of Nebraska
 Winnemucca Indian Colony of Nevada
 Wiyot Tribe, California (formerly the Table Bluff Reservation--Wiyot Tribe)
 Wyandotte Nation, Oklahoma
 Yankton Sioux Tribe of South Dakota
 Yavapai-Apache Nation of the Camp Verde Indian Reservation, Arizona
 Yavapai-Prescott Tribe of the Yavapai Reservation, Arizona
 Yerington Paiute Tribe of the Yerington Colony & Campbell Ranch, Nevada
 Yomba Shoshone Tribe of the Yomba Reservation, Nevada
 Ysleta Del Sur Pueblo of Texas
 Yurok Tribe of the Yurok Reservation, California
 Zuni Tribe of the Zuni Reservation, New Mexico

Native Entities Within the State of Alaska Recognized and Eligible To

Receive Services From the United States Bureau of Indian Affairs

Native Village of Afognak (formerly the Village of Afognak)
Agdaagux Tribe of King Cove
Native Village of Akhiok
Akiachak Native Community
Akiak Native Community
Native Village of Akutan
Village of Alakanuk
Alatna Village
Native Village of Aleknagik
Algaaciq Native Village (St. Mary's)
Allakaket Village
Native Village of Ambler
Village of Anaktuvuk Pass
Yupiit of Andreefski
Angoon Community Association
Village of Aniak
Anvik Village
Arctic Village (See Native Village of Venetie Tribal Government)
Asa'carsarmiut Tribe
Native Village of Atka
Village of Atmautluak
Atgasuk Village (Atkasook)
Native Village of Barrow Inupiat Traditional Government
Beaver Village
Native Village of Belkofski
Village of Bill Moore's Slough
Birch Creek Tribe
Native Village of Brevig Mission
Native Village of Buckland
Native Village of Cantwell
Native Village of Chenega (aka Chanega)
Chalkyitsik Village
Cheesh-Na Tribe (formerly the Native Village of Chistochina)
Village of Chefornak
Chevak Native Village
Chickaloon Native Village
Chignik Bay Tribal Council (formerly the Native Village of Chignik)
Native Village of Chignik Lagoon
Chignik Lake Village
Chilkat Indian Village (Klukwan)
Chilkoot Indian Association (Haines)
Chinik Eskimo Community (Golovin)
Native Village of Chitina
Native Village of Chuathbaluk (Russian Mission, Kuskokwim)
Chuloonawick Native Village
Circle Native Community
Village of Clarks Point
Native Village of Council
Craig Community Association
Village of Crooked Creek
Curyung Tribal Council

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Native Village of Deering
Native Village of Diomedea (aka Inalik)
Village of Dot Lake
Douglas Indian Association

Native Village of Eagle
Native Village of Eek
Egegik Village
Eklutna Native Village
Native Village of Ekuk
Ekwok Village
Native Village of Elim
Emmonak Village
Evansville Village (aka Bettles Field)
Native Village of Eyak (Cordova)
Native Village of False Pass
Native Village of Fort Yukon
Native Village of Gakona
Galena Village (aka Loudon Village)
Native Village of Gambell
Native Village of Georgetown
Native Village of Goodnews Bay
Organized Village of Grayling (aka Holikachuk)
Gulkana Village
Native Village of Hamilton
Healy Lake Village
Holy Cross Village
Hoonah Indian Association
Native Village of Hooper Bay
Hughes Village
Huslia Village
Hydaburg Cooperative Association
Igiugig Village
Village of Iliamna
Inupiat Community of the Arctic Slope
Iqurmit Traditional Council (formerly the Native Village of Russian Mission)
Ivanoff Bay Village
Kaguyak Village
Organized Village of Kake
Kaktovik Village (aka Barter Island)
Village of Kalskag
Village of Kaltag
Native Village of Kanatak
Native Village of Karluk
Organized Village of Kasaan
Kasigluk Traditional Elders Council (formerly the Native Village of Kasigluk)
Kenaitze Indian Tribe
Ketchikan Indian Corporation
Native Village of Kiana
King Island Native Community
King Salmon Tribe
Native Village of Kipnuk
Native Village of Kivalina
Klawock Cooperative Association
Native Village of Kluti Kaah (aka Copper Center)
Knik Tribe
Native Village of Kobuk
Kokhanok Village
Native Village of Kongiganak
Village of Kotlik
Native Village of Kotzebue
Native Village of Koyuk
Koyukuk Native Village

Organized Village of Kwethluk
Native Village of Kwigillingok
Native Village of Kwinhagak (aka Quinhagak)
Native Village of Larsen Bay
Levelock Village
Lesnoi Village (aka Woody Island)
Lime Village
Village of Lower Kalskag
Manley Hot Springs Village
Manokotak Village
Native Village of Marshall (aka Fortuna Ledge)
Native Village of Mary's Igloo
McGrath Native Village
Native Village of Mekoryuk
Mentasta Traditional Council
Metlakatla Indian Community, Annette Island Reserve
Native Village of Minto
Naknek Native Village
Native Village of Nanwalek (aka English Bay)
Native Village of Napaimute
Native Village of Napakiak
Native Village of Napaskiak
Native Village of Nelson Lagoon
Nenana Native Association
New Koliganek Village Council
New Stuyahok Village
Newhalen Village
Newtok Village
Native Village of Nightmute
Nikolai Village
Native Village of Nikolski
Ninilchik Village
Native Village of Noatak
Nome Eskimo Community
Nondalton Village
Noorvik Native Community
Northway Village
Native Village of Nuiqsut (aka Nooiksut)
Nulato Village
Nunakauyarmiut Tribe (formerly the Native Village of Toksook Bay)
Native Village of Nunam Iqua (formerly the Native Village of Sheldon's Point)
Native Village of Nunapitchuk
Village of Ohogamiut
Village of Old Harbor
Orutsararmuit Native Village (aka Bethel)
Oscarville Traditional Village
Native Village of Ouzinkie
Native Village of Paimiut
Pauloff Harbor Village
Pedro Bay Village
Native Village of Perryville
Petersburg Indian Association
Native Village of Pilot Point
Pilot Station Traditional Village
Native Village of Pitka's Point
Platinum Traditional Village
Native Village of Point Hope
Native Village of Point Lay
Native Village of Port Graham

Native Village of Port Heiden
Native Village of Port Lions
Portage Creek Village (aka Ohgsenakale)
Pribilof Islands Aleut Communities of St. Paul & St. George Islands
Qagan Tayagungin Tribe of Sand Point Village
Qawalangin Tribe of Unalaska
Rampart Village
Village of Red Devil
Native Village of Ruby
Saint George Island (See Pribilof Islands Aleut Communities of St. Paul & St. George Islands)
Native Village of Saint Michael
Saint Paul Island (See Pribilof Islands Aleut Communities of St. Paul & St. George Islands)
Village of Salamatoff
Native Village of Savoonga
Organized Village of Saxman
Native Village of Scammon Bay
Native Village of Selawik
Seldovia Village Tribe
Shageluk Native Village
Native Village of Shaktoolik
Native Village of Shishmaref
Native Village of Shungnak
Sitka Tribe of Alaska
Skagway Village
Village of Sleetmute
Village of Solomon
South Naknek Village
Stebbins Community Association
Native Village of Stevens
Village of Stony River
Sun'aq Tribe of Kodiak (formerly the Shoonaq' Tribe of Kodiak)
Takatna Village
Native Village of Tanacross
Native Village of Tanana
Native Village of Tatitlek
Native Village of Tazlina
Telida Village
Native Village of Teller
Native Village of Tetlin
Central Council of the Tlingit & Haida Indian Tribes
Traditional Village of Togiak
Tuluksak Native Community
Native Village of Tuntutuliak
Native Village of Tununak
Twin Hills Village
Native Village of Tyonek
Ugashik Village
Umkumiute Native Village
Native Village of Unalakleet
Native Village of Unga
Village of Venetie (See Native Village of Venetie Tribal Government)
Native Village of Venetie Tribal Government (Arctic Village and Village of Venetie)
Village of Wainwright
Native Village of Wales
Native Village of White Mountain
Wrangell Cooperative Association
Yakutat Tlingit Tribe

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Gov. Bobby Jindal may accept refused stimulus money for expanded unemployment benefits



by Robert Travis Scott, The Times-Picayune

Thursday March 19, 2009, 10:03 PM

BATON ROUGE -- Gov. Bobby Jindal's workforce commissioner said Thursday that the U.S. Labor Department's latest clarification of the federal stimulus act has opened the possibility that the administration could consider accepting a previously rejected \$98.4 million package of extra jobless benefits, although important questions remain in what has become a high-profile issue.

Tim Barfield, the governor's appointee as head of the Louisiana Workforce Commission, said the federal agency has made "real progress" in allaying concerns about strings attached to the program.

State agency officials are seeking more answers and continuing to examine the consequences of accepting the money, Barfield said. He said it was not out of the question that he could recommend that the governor accept the package "if we can show it does not increase taxes on business and industry."

Jindal helped turn the stimulus act's jobless benefits program into a national debate last month when he announced his refusal to take the money just before his appearance at a national governors' conference and his nationally televised Republican Party response to the Democratic president's address to Congress.

Although he has accepted nearly all the state's share of the federal stimulus money, he has resisted a \$98.4 million portion of the jobless benefits package, which would require a change in state law to expand the number of people eligible for unemployment compensation. One of the concerns is that businesses, which pay for jobless benefits, could end up with a larger financial burden even with the nearly \$100 million in assistance.

Defining 'permanent'

A key sticking point for Jindal was that the federal stimulus act requires states to adopt "permanent" changes to accommodate the expanded system. Jindal's team and Sen. Mary Landrieu, D-La., have been asking what would happen if the state changed its law and repealed it later. Would the federal government try to get the money back?

The U.S. Department of Labor sent a letter to Landrieu on Wednesday stating that the stimulus act "does not prohibit the state's legislature from repealing these provisions in the future."

"As a result, if a state eventually decides to repeal or modify any of these provisions, it may do so, and it will not be required to return any incentive payment," according to the letter, signed by Deputy Assistant Secretary Douglas Small.

The letter also stated that Congress "clearly intended" to encourage states to adopt the expanded eligibility requirements for jobless claims on a permanent basis and that Congress and the Labor Department "rely on states' good faith in adopting the eligibility criteria."

Landrieu said the department had "weighed in clearly" and put the issue to rest.

"I hope the Jindal administration and the Legislature can come to a consensus, as families struggle during this difficult economic time," Landrieu said.

Risk reduced

Barfield said the letter, while not providing a 100 percent legal guarantee, "carries a tremendous amount of weight and significantly reduces the risk we have of them coming back to get the money."

The state still wants to know more details, Barfield said. For example, would the stimulus money be sufficient to cover the added costs of the program until such time as the expanded system could be repealed?

Also, because businesses are assessed payments for unemployment insurance based on their history of layoffs, would the new expanded system put a long-lasting stain on their records?

Barfield said he hopes to get answers to these questions within 30 days, or before the legislative session begins April 27.

If the answers are that employers would not get an increase in their rates, then the governor and the Legislature could work together and seriously consider the program, he said.

Partisan debate

With veto power and control of the agency that would apply for the jobless benefits program, Jindal holds the keys to adopting the expanded benefits program. In the Legislature, the issue so far has been divided largely along party lines.

State Sen. Eric LaFleur, D-Ville Platte, a leader in the movement to adopt the stimulus package, said there is a good chance the state would not use all the federal jobless benefits money during a period of two years or so. With that in mind, the Legislature could change the law and revisit the program when the economy improves, he said.

In the meantime, the Labor Department letter proves that "permanency is not an issue. You can change the law, period," LaFleur said.

If Jindal keeps opposing the program at this point, "then it becomes something he's doing purely for political reasons . . . and not for the taxpayers of Louisiana," LeFleur said.

Business lobbyists have argued against adopting the expanded program because laws, once put in place, are difficult to repeal.

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Robert Travis Scott can be reached at rscott@timespicayune.com or 225.342.4197.

NFIB

The Voice of Small Business®

ALASKA

March 25, 2009

The Honorable Johnny Ellis
State Capitol Building
Juneau Alaska 99801-1182

RE: Senate Bill 170

Dear

On behalf of the National Federation of Independent Business/Alaska, I wish to express our appreciation and understanding of your introduction of Senate Bill 170. The National Federation of Independent Business is the largest small-business advocacy group in Alaska.

As you know, NFIB/AK had strong reservations about the state taking stimulus money for the Unemployment Insurance Program. We worked with you over the last two years to update our program and we had no desire to have the federal government dictate revisions to our program that were not in the best interest of Alaskan businesses and their employees.

I am pleased to tell you that the Alaska Department of Labor and Workforce Development has done a great service to Alaska by fighting the US Department of Labor and winning! As a result of their efforts, Alaska will not need to change any of its statutes relative to eligibility or determinations of able and available for work. Because of this great victory for Alaska, NFIB/AK withdraws our opposition to accepting federal stimulus funds for the Unemployment Insurance Program.

NFIB/AK understands that we will need to amend our statutes relative to the base period for the calculation of eligibility. This is a relatively simple administrative change the cost of which will be born by stimulus funding. The larger benefit to Alaska will be the availability of funding that can be used for additional vocational training to assist unemployed Alaskans get back into the workforce more quickly. This is good for individual Alaskans, employers and Alaska's economy.

NFIB/AK is pleased to have been able to work with Governor Palin, the Alaska Department of Labor and Workforce Development and you, Senator Ellis, to find this

Senator Johnny Ellis
March 25, 2009
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solution that allows Alaska to accept a portion of the stimulus funding without making any significant or inappropriate changes to our Unemployment Insurance Program.

Sincerely yours,



Dennis L. DeWitt
Alaska State Lobbyist

Cc: Senate Labor & Commerce Committee
Governor Sarah Palin
Karen Rehfeld, Office of Management & Budget
Commissioner Clark Bishop
Senator Bert Stedman
Senator Lyman Hoffman
Representative Mike Hawker
Representative Bill Stoltze