${\bf By}$ Senator Garcia

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1	A bill to be entitled
2	An act relating to unemployment compensation;
3	reviving, readopting, and amending s. 443.1117, F.S.;
4	providing for retroactive application; establishing
5	temporary state extended benefits for weeks of
6	unemployment; amending definitions; providing for
7	state extended benefits for certain weeks and for
8	periods of high unemployment; providing for
9	applicability of s. 443.1117, F.S.; amending s.
10	443.1217, F.S.; increasing the amount of an employee's
11	wages that are exempt from the employer's contribution
12	to the Unemployment Compensation Trust Fund, with a
13	reversion to current law after a certain date;
14	amending s. 443.131, F.S.; providing that the positive
15	adjustment factor begins on a certain date, with a
16	reversion to current law after a certain date;
17	providing for an assessment on employers to pay the
18	forecasted interest on advances received from the
19	Federal Government to pay unemployment benefits;
20	requiring the Revenue Estimating Conference to
21	calculate interest based on certain factors by a date
22	certain; requiring an assessment by a date certain;
23	providing a formula for calculating the employer
24	interest assessment rate and the amount to be paid by
25	each employer; providing for a separate collection of
26	the assessment by a tax collection service provider;
27	naming an account to hold interest collected until
28	payment is directed; providing for a suspension or
29	termination of assessment under certain circumstances;

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30	providing credit for interest funds collected before
31	suspension or termination; providing for severability
32	of provisions that interfere with federal interest
33	relief or federal tax credit; amending s. 443.141;
34	F.S.; providing for retroactive applicability;
35	providing a schedule of employer payments for 2010 and
36	2011; providing for penalties, interest, and fees on
37	delinquent contributions; providing an appropriation;
38	providing that the act fulfills an important state
39	interest; providing for retroactive application;
40	providing an effective date.
41	
42	Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:
43	
44	Section 1. Notwithstanding the expiration date contained in
45	section 4 of chapter 2009-99, Laws of Florida, operating
46	retroactive to January 2, 2010, and expiring February 27, 2010,
47	section 443.1117, Florida Statutes, is revived, readopted, and
48	amended to read:
49	443.1117 Temporary extended benefits
50	(1) APPLICABILITY OF EXTENDED BENEFITS STATUTEExcept when
51	the result is inconsistent with the other provisions of this
52	section, the provisions of s. 443.1115(3), (4), (6), and (7)
53	apply to all claims covered by this section.
54	(2) DEFINITIONSFor the purposes of this section, the
55	term:
56	(a) "Regular benefits" and "extended benefits" have the
57	same meaning as in s. 443.1115.
58	(b) "Eligibility period" means the period consisting of the
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59	weeks in an individual's benefit year or emergency benefit
60	period which begin in an extended benefit period and, if the
61	benefit year or emergency benefit period ends within that
62	extended benefit period, any subsequent weeks beginning in that
63	period.
64	(c) "Emergency benefits" means Emergency Unemployment
65	Compensation paid pursuant to Pub. L. No. 110-252, Pub. L. No.
66	110-449, and Pub. L. No. 111-5 <u>, Pub. L. No. 111-92, and Pub. L.</u>
67	<u>No. 111-118</u> .
68	(d) "Extended benefit period" means a period that:
69	1. Begins with the third week after a week for which there
70	is a state "on" indicator; and
71	2. Ends with any of the following weeks, whichever occurs
72	later:
73	a. The third week after the first week for which there is a
74	<pre>state ``off'' indicator;</pre>
75	b. The 13th consecutive week of that period.
76	
77	However, an extended benefit period may not begin by reason of a
78	state "on" indicator before the 14th week after the end of a
79	prior extended benefit period that was in effect for this state.
80	(e) "Emergency benefit period" means the period during
81	which an individual receives emergency benefits as defined in
82	paragraph (c).
83	(f) "Exhaustee" means an individual who, for any week of
84	unemployment in her or his eligibility period:
85	1. Has received, before that week, all of the regular
86	benefits and emergency benefits, if any, available under this
87	chapter or any other law, including dependents' allowances and

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40-01940B-10 20101666 88 benefits payable to federal civilian employees and ex-89 servicemembers under 5 U.S.C. ss. 8501-8525, in the current 90 benefit year or emergency benefit period that includes that 91 week. For the purposes of this subparagraph, an individual has 92 received all of the regular benefits and emergency benefits, if 93 any, available although, as a result of a pending appeal for 94 wages paid for insured work which were not considered in the 95 original monetary determination in the benefit year, she or he may subsequently be determined to be entitled to added regular 96 benefits; 97

98 2. Had a benefit year which expired before that week, and 99 was paid no, or insufficient, wages for insured work on the 100 basis of which she or he could establish a new benefit year that 101 includes that week; and

3.a. Has no right to unemployment benefits or allowances under the Railroad Unemployment Insurance Act or other federal laws as specified in regulations issued by the United States Secretary of Labor; and

b. Has not received and is not seeking unemployment benefits under the unemployment compensation law of Canada; but if an individual is seeking those benefits and the appropriate agency finally determines that she or he is not entitled to benefits under that law, she or he is considered an exhaustee.

(g) "State 'on' indicator" means, with respect to weeks of unemployment beginning on or after February 1, 2009, and ending on or before <u>January 30, 2010</u> December 12, 2009, the occurrence of a week in which the average total unemployment rate, seasonally adjusted, as determined by the United States Secretary of Labor, for the period consisting of the most recent

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117	3 months for which data for all states are published by the
118	United States Department of Labor:
119	1. Equals or exceeds 110 percent of the average of those
120	rates for the corresponding 3-month period ending in each of the
121	preceding 2 calendar years; and
122	2. Equals or exceeds 6.5 percent.
123	(h) "High unemployment period" means, with respect to weeks
124	of unemployment beginning on or after February 1, 2009, and
125	ending on or before <u>January 30, 2010</u> December 12, 2009 , any week
126	in which the average total unemployment rate, seasonally
127	adjusted, as determined by the United States Secretary of Labor,
128	for the period consisting of the most recent 3 months for which
129	data for all states are published by the United States
130	Department of Labor:
131	1. Equals or exceeds 110 percent of the average of those
132	rates for the corresponding 3-month period ending in each of the
133	preceding 2 calendar years; and
134	2. Equals or exceeds 8 percent.
135	(i) "State 'off' indicator" means the occurrence of a week
136	in which there is no state "on" indicator or which does not
137	constitute a high unemployment period.
138	(3) TOTAL EXTENDED BENEFIT AMOUNTExcept as provided in
139	subsection (4) (5):
140	(a) For any week for which there is an "on" indicator
141	pursuant to paragraph (2)(g), the total extended benefit amount
142	payable to an eligible individual for her or his applicable
143	benefit year is the lesser of:
144	1. Fifty percent of the total regular benefits payable
145	under this chapter in the applicable benefit year; or

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146 2. Thirteen times the weekly benefit amount payable under 147 this chapter for a week of total unemployment in the applicable 148 benefit year.

(b) For any high unemployment period as defined in paragraph (2)(h), the total extended benefit amount payable to an eligible individual for her or his applicable benefit year is the lesser of:

1. Eighty percent of the total regular benefits payable
 under this chapter in the applicable benefit year; or

155 2. Twenty times the weekly benefit amount payable under
156 this chapter for a week of total unemployment in the applicable
157 benefit year.

158 (4) EFFECT ON TRADE READJUSTMENT.-Notwithstanding any other 159 provision of this chapter, if the benefit year of an individual 160 ends within an extended benefit period, the number of weeks of 161 extended benefits the individual is entitled to receive in that 162 extended benefit period for weeks of unemployment beginning 163 after the end of the benefit year, except as provided in this section, is reduced, but not to below zero, by the number of 164 165 weeks for which the individual received, within that benefit 166 year, trade readjustment allowances under the Trade Act of 1974, 167 as amended.

Section 2. <u>The provisions of s. 443.1117, Florida Statutes</u>, as revived, readopted, and amended by this act, apply only to claims for weeks of unemployment, in which an exhaustee establishes entitlement to extended benefits pursuant to that section which are established for the period between February 22, 2009, and February 27, 2010.

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Section 3. Subsection (1) and paragraph (a) of subsection

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175	(2) of section 443.1217, Florida Statutes, are amended to read:
176	443.1217 Wages
177	(1) The wages subject to this chapter include all
178	remuneration for employment, including commissions, bonuses,
179	back pay awards, and the cash value of all remuneration paid in
180	any medium other than cash. The reasonable cash value of
181	remuneration in any medium other than cash must be estimated and
182	determined in accordance with rules adopted by the Agency for
183	Workforce Innovation or the state agency providing tax
184	collection services. The wages subject to this chapter include
185	tips or gratuities received while performing services that
186	constitute employment and are included in a written statement
187	furnished to the employer under s. 6053(a) of the Internal
188	Revenue Code of 1954. As used in this section only, the term
189	"employment" includes services constituting employment under any
190	employment security law of another state or the Federal
191	Government.
192	(2) For the purpose of determining an employer's
193	contributions, the following wages are exempt from this chapter:
194	(a) That part of remuneration paid to an individual by an
195	employer <u>or his or her predecessor</u> for employment during a
196	calendar year in excess of <u>:</u>
197	1. Beginning January 1, 2010, the first \$7,000 of
198	remuneration paid to the individual during that calendar year,
199	unless that part of the remuneration is subject to a tax, under
200	a federal law imposing the tax, against which credit may be
201	taken for contributions required to be paid into a state
202	unemployment fund.
203	2. Beginning January 1, 2012, the first \$8,500 of

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204	remuneration paid to the individual by the employer or his or
205	her predecessor during that calendar year, unless that part of
206	the remuneration is subject to a tax, under a federal law
207	imposing the tax, against which credit may be taken for
208	contributions required to be paid into a state unemployment
209	fund. As used in this section only, the term "employment"
210	includes services constituting employment under any employment
211	security law of another state or of the Federal Government.
212	3. Beginning January 1, 2015, the part of remuneration paid
213	to an individual by an employer for employment during a calendar
214	year in excess of the first \$7,000 <u>of remuneration paid to the</u>
215	individual during that calendar year, unless that part of the
216	remuneration is subject to a tax, under a federal law imposing
217	the tax, against which credit may be taken for contributions
218	required to be paid into a state unemployment fund is exempt
219	from this chapter.
220	Section 4. Paragraph (e) of subsection (3) of section
221	443.131, Florida Statutes, is amended, and subsections (5) and
222	(6) are added to that section, to read:
223	443.131 Contributions
224	(3) VARIATION OF CONTRIBUTION RATES BASED ON BENEFIT
225	EXPERIENCE
226	(e) Assignment of variations from the standard rateFor
227	the calculation of contribution rates effective January 1, 2010,
228	and thereafter:
229	1. The tax collection service provider shall assign a
230	variation from the standard rate of contributions for each
231	calendar year to each eligible employer. In determining the
232	contribution rate, varying from the standard rate to be assigned

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233 each employer, adjustment factors computed under sub-234 subparagraphs a.-d. are shall be added to the benefit ratio. 235 This addition shall be accomplished in two steps by adding a 236 variable adjustment factor and a final adjustment factor. The 237 sum of these adjustment factors computed under sub-subparagraphs 238 a.-d. shall first be algebraically summed. The sum of these 239 adjustment factors shall next be divided by a gross benefit 240 ratio determined as follows: Total benefit payments for the 3year period described in subparagraph (b)2. are shall be charged 241 242 to employers eligible for a variation from the standard rate, minus excess payments for the same period, divided by taxable 243 244 payroll entering into the computation of individual benefit 245 ratios for the calendar year for which the contribution rate is 246 being computed. The ratio of the sum of the adjustment factors 247 computed under sub-subparagraphs a.-d. to the gross benefit 248 ratio is shall be multiplied by each individual benefit ratio 249 that is less than the maximum contribution rate to obtain 250 variable adjustment factors; except that if in any instance in 251 which the sum of an employer's individual benefit ratio and 252 variable adjustment factor exceeds the maximum contribution 253 rate, the variable adjustment factor is shall be reduced in 254 order for that the sum to equal equals the maximum contribution 255 rate. The variable adjustment factor for each of these employers 256 is multiplied by his or her taxable payroll entering into the 257 computation of his or her benefit ratio. The sum of these 258 products is shall be divided by the taxable payroll of the employers who entered into the computation of their benefit 259 260 ratios. The resulting ratio is shall be subtracted from the sum

261 of the adjustment factors computed under sub-subparagraphs a.-d.

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to obtain the final adjustment factor. The variable adjustment factors and the final adjustment factor <u>must</u> shall be computed to five decimal places and rounded to the fourth decimal place. This final adjustment factor <u>is</u> shall be added to the variable adjustment factor and benefit ratio of each employer to obtain each employer's contribution rate. An employer's contribution rate may not, however, be rounded to less than 0.1 percent.

269 a. An adjustment factor for noncharge benefits is shall be 270 computed to the fifth decimal place and rounded to the fourth 271 decimal place by dividing the amount of noncharge benefits 272 during the 3-year period described in subparagraph (b)2. by the 273 taxable payroll of employers eligible for a variation from the 274 standard rate who have a benefit ratio for the current year 275 which is less than the maximum contribution rate. For purposes 276 of computing this adjustment factor, the taxable payroll of 277 these employers is the taxable payrolls for the 3 years ending 278 June 30 of the current calendar year as reported to the tax 279 collection service provider by September 30 of the same calendar 280 year. As used in this sub-subparagraph, the term "noncharge 281 benefits" means benefits paid to an individual from the 282 Unemployment Compensation Trust Fund, but which were not charged to the employment record of any employer. 283

b. An adjustment factor for excess payments <u>is</u> shall be computed to the fifth decimal place, and rounded to the fourth decimal place by dividing the total excess payments during the 3-year period described in subparagraph (b)2. by the taxable payroll of employers eligible for a variation from the standard rate who have a benefit ratio for the current year which is less than the maximum contribution rate. For purposes of computing

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40-01940B-10 20101666 291 this adjustment factor, the taxable payroll of these employers 292 is the same figure used to compute the adjustment factor for 293 noncharge benefits under sub-subparagraph a. As used in this 294 sub-subparagraph, the term "excess payments" means the amount of 295 benefits charged to the employment record of an employer during 296 the 3-year period described in subparagraph (b)2., less the 297 product of the maximum contribution rate and the employer's 298 taxable payroll for the 3 years ending June 30 of the current 299 calendar year as reported to the tax collection service provider 300 by September 30 of the same calendar year. As used in this sub-301 subparagraph, the term "total excess payments" means the sum of 302 the individual employer excess payments for those employers that 303 were eligible to be considered for assignment of a contribution 304 rate different from the standard rate.

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c. With respect to computing a positive adjustment factor:

(I) Beginning January 1, 2012, if the balance of the 306 307 Unemployment Compensation Trust Fund on June 30 of the calendar 308 year immediately preceding the calendar year for which the 309 contribution rate is being computed is less than 4 percent of 310 the taxable payrolls for the year ending June 30 as reported to the tax collection service provider by September 30 of that 311 312 calendar year, a positive adjustment factor shall be computed. The positive adjustment factor is shall be computed annually to 313 the fifth decimal place and rounded to the fourth decimal place 314 315 by dividing the sum of the total taxable payrolls for the year 316 ending June 30 of the current calendar year as reported to the tax collection service provider by September 30 of that calendar 317 318 year into a sum equal to one-third of the difference between the 319 balance of the fund as of June 30 of that calendar year and the

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40-01940B-10 20101666 320 sum of 5 percent of the total taxable payrolls for that year. 321 The positive adjustment factor remains in effect for subsequent 322 years until the balance of the Unemployment Compensation Trust 323 Fund as of June 30 of the year immediately preceding the 324 effective date of the contribution rate equals or exceeds 5 325 percent of the taxable payrolls for the year ending June 30 of 326 the current calendar year as reported to the tax collection 327 service provider by September 30 of that calendar year. 328 (II) Beginning January 1, 2015, and for each year 329 thereafter, the positive adjustment authorized by this section

330 shall be computed by dividing the sum of the total taxable 331 payrolls for the year ending June 30 of the current calendar 332 year as reported to the tax collection service provider by 333 September 30 of that calendar year into a sum equal to one-334 fourth of the difference between the balance of the fund as of 335 June 30 of that calendar year and the sum of 5 percent of the 336 total taxable payrolls for that year. The positive adjustment 337 factor remains in effect for subsequent years until the balance 338 of the Unemployment Compensation Trust Fund as of June 30 of the 339 year immediately preceding the effective date of the contribution rate equals or exceeds 4 percent of the taxable 340 341 payrolls for the year ending June 30 of the current calendar 342 year as reported to the tax collection service provider by 343 September 30 of that calendar year.

d. If, beginning January 1, 2015, and each year thereafter,
the balance of the Unemployment Compensation Trust Fund as of
June 30 of the year immediately preceding the calendar year for
which the contribution rate is being computed exceeds 5 percent
of the taxable payrolls for the year ending June 30 of the

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40-01940B-10 20101666 349 current calendar year as reported to the tax collection service 350 provider by September 30 of that calendar year, a negative 351 adjustment factor must shall be computed. The negative 352 adjustment factor shall be computed annually beginning on 353 January 1, 2015, and each year thereafter, to the fifth decimal 354 place and rounded to the fourth decimal place by dividing the 355 sum of the total taxable payrolls for the year ending June 30 of the current calendar year as reported to the tax collection 356 357 service provider by September 30 of the calendar year into a sum 358 equal to one-fourth of the difference between the balance of the 359 fund as of June 30 of the current calendar year and 5 percent of 360 the total taxable payrolls of that year. The negative adjustment 361 factor remains in effect for subsequent years until the balance 362 of the Unemployment Compensation Trust Fund as of June 30 of the 363 year immediately preceding the effective date of the 364 contribution rate is less than 5 percent, but more than 4 365 percent of the taxable payrolls for the year ending June 30 of 366 the current calendar year as reported to the tax collection 367 service provider by September 30 of that calendar year. The 368 negative adjustment authorized by this section is suspended in 369 any calendar year in which repayment of the principal amount of 370 an advance received from the federal Unemployment Compensation Trust Fund under 42 U.S.C. s. 1321 is due to the Federal 371 372 Government.

e. The maximum contribution rate that may be assigned to an employer is 5.4 percent, except employers participating in an approved short-time compensation plan may be assigned a maximum contribution rate that is 1 percent greater than the maximum contribution rate for other employers in any calendar year in

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2. Amounts expected to be advanced to the trust fund based

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40-01940B-10 20101666 407 on current and projected unemployment patterns and employer 408 contributions; 409 3. The interest payment due date; and 410 4. The interest rate that will be applied by the Federal 411 Government to any accrued outstanding balances. 412 (b) The additional rate assessed for a calendar year is 413 determined by dividing the estimated amount of interest to be 414 paid in that year by 95 percent of the taxable wages, as defined 415 in s. 443.1217, paid by all employers for the year ending June 30 of the immediately preceding calendar year. The amount to be 416 417 paid by each employer is the product obtained by multiplying the 418 employer's taxable wages for the year ending June 30 of the 419 immediately preceding calendar year by the additional rate. 420 (c) The tax collection service provider shall make a 421 separate collection of such assessment, which may be collected 422 at the time of employer contributions and is subject to the same 423 penalties for failure to file a report, imposition of the 424 standard rate pursuant to paragraph (3)(h), and interest if the 425 assessment is not received on or before June 30. The tax 426 collection service provider shall maintain those funds in the 427 tax collection service provider's Audit and Warrant Clearing 428 Trust Fund until it is directed to make the interest payment to 429 the Federal Government. 430 1. If the state is allowed to defer interest payments due 431 during a calendar year under 42 U.S.C. s. 1322, payment of the 432 interest assessment shall not be due. 433 2. If a deferral of interest expires or is subsequently 434 disallowed by the Federal Government, prospectively or 435 retroactively, the interest assessment is immediately due and

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465	those contributions are paid as follows:
466	1. For contributions due for wages paid in the first
467	quarter of 2010, one-fourth of the contributions due must be
468	paid on or before April 30, 2010, one-fourth must be paid on or
469	before July 31, 2010, one-fourth must be paid on or before
470	October 31, 2010, and the remaining one-fourth must be paid on
471	or before December 31, 2010.
472	2. In addition to the payments specified in subparagraph
473	1., for contributions due for wages paid in the second quarter
474	of 2010, one-third of the contributions due must be paid on or
475	before July 31, 2010, one-third must be paid on or before
476	October 31, 2010, and the remaining one-third must be paid on or
477	before December 31, 2010.
478	3. In addition to the payments specified in subparagraphs
479	1. and 2., for contributions due for wages paid in the third
480	quarter of 2010, one-half of the contributions due must be paid
481	on or before October 31, 2010, and the remaining one-half must
482	be paid on or before December 31, 2010.
483	4. Interest does not accrue on any contribution that
484	becomes due for wages paid in the first three quarters of 2010
485	if the employer pays the contribution in accordance with
486	subparagraphs 13. Interest and fees continue to accrue on
487	prior delinquent contributions and commence accruing on all
488	contributions due for wages paid in the first three quarters of
489	2010 which are not paid in accordance with subparagraphs 13.
490	Penalties may be assessed in accordance with this chapter. The
491	contributions due for wages paid in the fourth quarter of 2010
492	are not affected by this paragraph and are due and payable in
493	accordance with this chapter.

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494	(e) Payments for 2011 ContributionsA contributing
495	employer may pay its quarterly contributions due for wages paid
496	in the first three quarters of 2011 in equal installments
497	provided those contributions are paid as follows:
498	1. For contributions due for wages paid in the first
499	quarter of 2011, one-fourth of the contributions due must be
500	paid on or before April 30, 2011, one-fourth must be paid on or
501	before July 31, 2011, one-fourth must be paid on or before
502	October 31, 2011, and the remaining one-fourth must be paid on
503	or before December 31, 2011.
504	2. In addition to the payments specified in subparagraph
505	1., for contributions due for wages paid in the second quarter
506	of 2011, one-third of the contributions due must be paid on or
507	before July 31, 2011, one-third must be paid on or before
508	October 31, 2011, and the remaining one-third must be paid on or
509	before December 31, 2011.
510	3. In addition to the payments specified in subparagraphs
511	1. and 2., for contributions due for wages paid in the third
512	quarter of 2011, one-half of the contributions due must be paid
513	on or before October 31, 2011, and the remaining one-half must
514	be paid on or before December 31, 2011.
515	4. Interest does not accrue on any contribution that
516	becomes due for wages paid in the first three quarters of 2011
517	if the employer pays the contribution in accordance with
518	subparagraphs 13. Interest and fees continue to accrue on
519	prior delinquent contributions and commence accruing on all
520	contributions due for wages paid in the first three quarters of
521	2011 which are not paid in accordance with subparagraphs 13.
522	Penalties may be assessed in accordance with this chapter. The

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523	contributions due for wages paid in the fourth quarter of 2011
524	are not affected by this paragraph and are due and payable in
525	accordance with this chapter.
526	Section 6. For the 2009-2010 fiscal year, the sum of
527	\$1,269,817 is appropriated from the Employment Security
528	Administration Trust Fund in the contracted services
529	appropriation category within the Agency for Workforce
530	Innovation's Unemployment Compensation budget entity to be used
531	to implement this act. In addition, for the 2009-2010 fiscal
532	year, the sum of \$1,269,817 is appropriated from the Federal
533	Grants Trust Fund in a lump sum appropriation category within
534	the Department of Revenue to be used to implement this act.
535	Section 7. The Legislature finds that this act fulfills an
536	important state interest.
537	Section 8. This act shall take effect upon becoming a law,
538	and except as otherwise expressly provided in this act, operates

539 retroactive to June 29, 2009.