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VOTE “NO” ON SB 1495
EXPANDED UI PROGRAMS

The American Recovery & Reinvestment Act of 2009 (the ARRA or “stimulus package”) contains many provisions affecting the unemployment insurance (UI) program.

This package contains a number of provisions designed to increase unemployment benefit payments and provide “**incentives**” for states to **EXPAND** the number of individuals who **qualify for unemployment compensation**.

The “incentives” provision transfers \$7 billion in FUTA funds (federal taxes paid by employers) to state accounts if states enact or already have certain state UI laws in place. Of this amount, Virginia could receive approximately \$187.5 million if all the conditions are met.

To qualify for these “incentive” payments, a state must have an alternate base period which would entitle it to one-third of its share. Virginia enacted this provision in 2003, therefore, it is already eligible to receive \$62.5 million.

In order to receive the remaining two-thirds of the funding, or approximately \$125 million, the General Assembly must EXPAND our state UI laws by passing at least two of four choices provided in the stimulus package.

During the 2009 General Assembly Session, no bills were introduced or passed that would qualify Virginia for the additional \$125 million.

So, here we are...

On Wednesday, the General Assembly will vote on receiving the remaining \$125 million via SB 1495. **Of the four choices provided in the stimulus offering, the Governor will ask the General Assembly to EXPAND our laws to provide two additional benefits – for the first time – one to part time workers seeking part time work and the other to those in job training.**

These two law changes are PERMANENT, while the money is NOT. Eventually, the money will be gone and employers will be left to pick up the price tag.

Unlike the regular session where bills can be debated and improved in committees, the vote on Wednesday is an up or down vote on each floor. It can not be amended or even debated in committee.

So, we ask that you contact by email or phone your [legislators](#) NOW and urge them to vote “NO” on SB 1495.

Informed sources expect the measure to pass the Senate – where it will start. The vote in the House may be close, as 2009 is an election year for all. Turning down “free” money is hard to do. Give them the support they need to vote NO.

For more information on this issue, please click [here](#).

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