

DEPARTMENT OF WORKFORCE SERVICES

2010 Legislative Wrap-Up Summary

All of the department's bills passed both bodies and the department experienced a \$6.6 million General Fund budget cut.

Major Funding Initiatives And Reallocations

During the 2010 General Session the Department's single line item was broken into three separate line items, Department of Workforce Services, Unemployment Insurance Administration, and Unemployment Compensation Fund for FY 2011. HB 2 also set up three additional line items that will come into effect in FY 2012. These are Department of Workforce Service-Administration, Department of Workforce Services-Policy and Operation, and Department of Workforce Services-General Assistance. These newly created line items will enable the Legislature to better understand how funds are appropriated and how they are being expended by the department.

The Legislature passed an on-going reduction of \$3,300,000 for Administrative, Technical and Program System Efficiencies, but also appropriated \$2,000,000 one-time from the DWS's Special Administrative Expense Fund. The Legislature also passed intent language that any funds transferred between DWS's schedule of programs need to be presented to the Legislature. In all, the department took a \$6.6 million cut from the state's General Fund this year. However the department will still be able to maintain our caseload demand, and meet anticipated growth in caseloads in the coming year within our current staffing levels.

Bills Passed:

HB 18 - Unemployment Insurance Amendments **

This bill modifies provisions of the Employment Security Act related to unemployment insurance benefits. It makes modifications to the definition of base period for purposes related to qualifying for unemployment insurance benefits and requires an annual report by the division on the impact of these modifications.

HB 43 - Unemployment Compensation Amendments **

This bill modifies provisions in the Employment Security Act regarding the computation of individual weekly benefits for those whose benefit year begins after the termination of Pub. L. No. 111-5, Sec. 2002 as amended and the offset of Social Security benefits against the weekly benefit amount of unemployment compensation an individual is eligible to receive under the Act. It provides that Social Security benefits may not be offset against unemployment compensation weekly benefits under the Employment Security Act.

HB51 - Cash Assistance to Single Minor Parent

This minor change aligns Utah statute with existing federal regulations and current DWS policy that minor parents must attend school to be eligible for FEP benefits.

HB260 - Children's Health Insurance Plan Simplified Renewal

This bill requires the Children's Health Insurance Plan to apply for grants to fund a simplified renewal process.

SB127- Public Assistance Fraud Amendments

This bill modifies provisions relating to public assistance fraud, requires both earned and unearned income to be disclosed when an individual applies for public assistance; and allows the state agency administering the public assistance to request additional information it considers necessary to determine eligibility.

SB181- Employment Security Administration Fund Repealer

This bill repeals the Employment Security Administration Fund and makes conforming Utah Workforce Services Code, and Title 63J, Budgeting. This bill eliminates the Employment Security Administration Fund due to its obsolescence, allowing the Unemployment Insurance Division of the Department of Workforce Services to better meet its federal reporting requirements; and makes conforming and technical changes.