HLS 15RS-3610 ORIGINAL

2015 Regular Session

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HOUSE STUDY REQUEST NO. 4

BY REPRESENTATIVE BARROW

Approved 6-8-15

UNEMPLOYMENT COMP: Requests a study concerning the feasibility of creating an exception to disqualification for unemployment compensation benefits for military spouses who must relocate out of state pursuant to military orders

A STUDY REQUEST

| 2  | To the House Committee on Labor and Industrial Relations to study the feasibility of             |
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| 3  | creating an exception to the disqualification for unemployment compensation                      |
| 4  | benefits for military spouses who must relocate out of state pursuant to military                |
| 5  | orders, and to report its findings to the House of Representatives prior to the                  |
| 6  | convening of the 2016 Regular Session.   |
| 7  | WHEREAS, the state of Louisiana celebrates and honors all members of the military                |
| 8  | and their families for the sacrifices they make to preserve the security, freedoms, and          |
| 9  | liberties that enrich both this state and this nation; and                                       |
| 10 | WHEREAS, members of the military and their families have earned the eternal                      |
| 11 | respect, admiration, and gratitude of the state of Louisiana and its citizens, and it is fitting |
| 12 | to recognize their unwavering selflessness and courage by giving due consideration to            |
| 13 | programs and potential legislation meant to protect those members, their families, and their     |
| 14 | interests; and   |
| 15 | WHEREAS, Chapter 11 of Title 23 of the Louisiana Revised Statutes of 1950, the                   |
| 16 | Louisiana Employment Security Law, provides for the safety-net of unemployment                   |
| 17 | compensation to help ensure the economic security of the people of the state in times of         |
| 18 | unemployment by ensuring income in times of job loss; and  |
| 19 | WHEREAS, contributions to unemployment insurance are paid by the employers of                    |
| 20 | our state on behalf of their employees; and  |

| 1  | WHEREAS, unemployment compensation is vital to dual-income military families                   |
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| 2  | who cannot afford an extended period of one income during a mandatory military relocation;     |
| 3  | and  |
| 4  | WHEREAS, according to the United States Department of Defense, working military                |
| 5  | spouses lose approximately six to nine months of salary per relocation; and                    |
| 6  | WHEREAS, R.S. 23:1601 outlines the instances in which an individual may be                     |
| 7  | disqualified from unemployment benefits, including instances in which an employee              |
| 8  | voluntarily leaves his job, as well as certain exceptions; and                                 |
| 9  | WHEREAS, according to the Military Officers Association of America, as of                      |
| 10 | February 2015, forty-six states and the District of Columbia enable military spouses who       |
| 11 | have been forced to leave employment as a result of a mandatory military relocation to         |
| 12 | receive unemployment benefits; and   |
| 13 | WHEREAS, throughout our nation, states use the following differing approaches to               |
| 14 | the issue of unemployment compensation eligibility for military spouses: eligible as long as   |
| 15 | other general eligibility criteria are met, eligible upon review of the circumstances by the   |
| 16 | administrator at the military spouse's request, eligible after a period of ineligibility, or   |
| 17 | ineligible as a result of a military relocation; and   |
| 18 | WHEREAS, the Legislature of Louisiana can propose legislation which would allow                |
| 19 | an exception to disqualification for benefits in instances in which a military spouse          |
| 20 | voluntarily leaves employment in order to relocate with his or her family pursuant to military |
| 21 | orders as long as the other factors for eligibility are met; and                               |
| 22 | WHEREAS, our vital, dedicated military service members can be more effective at                |
| 23 | the serious business of defending our country knowing their families are financially secure.   |
| 24 | THEREFORE, the House of Representatives of the Legislature of Louisiana requests               |
| 25 | the House Committee on Labor and Industrial Relations to study the feasibility of creating     |
| 26 | an exception to the disqualification for unemployment compensation benefits for military       |
| 27 | spouses who must relocate out of state pursuant to military orders and to report its findings  |
| 28 | to the House of Representatives prior to the convening of the 2016 Regular Session.            |

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the House Committee on Labor and Industrial

- 2 Relations may seek input from interested stakeholders, including but not limited to the
- 3 Louisiana Workforce Commission and the Department of Military Affairs.

## **DIGEST**

The digest printed below was prepared by House Legislative Services. It constitutes no part of the legislative instrument. The keyword, one-liner, abstract, and digest do not constitute part of the law or proof or indicia of legislative intent. [R.S. 1:13(B) and 24:177(E)]

HSR 4 Original

2015 Regular Session

Barrow

Urges the House of Representatives Committee on Labor and Industrial Relations to study the feasibility of creating an exception to the disqualification for unemployment compensation benefits for miliary spouses who must relocate out of state pursuant to military orders.