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Secretary Newson Urges Employers, Public to Provide Input on Unemployment Insurance Reform

Unemployment Insurance Advisory Council Seeks Ideas to Improve UI System

MADISON – Wisconsin Department of Workforce Development (DWD) Secretary Reggie Newson called on employers and members of the public to attend the Unemployment Insurance Advisory Council's public hearing to be held this coming Tuesday, October 30, from 2:30 to 4:30 p.m. and from 6:00 to 7:30 p.m. The hearing will streamed live via video conferencing, enabling individuals at seven locations around the state to travel and offer testimony to the Unemployment Insurance Advisory Council.

"DWD is working closely with the Unemployment Insurance Advisory Council and key stakeholders to identify changes that will benefit participants in Wisconsin's Unemployment Insurance system," said Secretary Newson. "The opportunity to offer input on what changes Wisconsinites would like to see will result in reforms that are responsive to concerns shared by members of the public and provide the highest level of customer service to those receiving Unemployment Insurance benefits."

Wisconsin's Unemployment Insurance Advisory Council consists of an even number of employer and employee representatives who meet to recommend changes to the state's Unemployment Insurance program. The recommendations are incorporated into an agreed-upon bill that is introduced in the legislature for passage. Changes passed into law during the last legislative session increased penalties for those fraudulently accessing benefits and increased DWD's ability to recover overpayments from individuals.

As part of DWD's desire to better serve employers and job seekers, Secretary Newson encouraged the public to attend the hearing, which will be hosted at one of the following video conferencing sites:

- University of Wisconsin-Extension Pyle Center, Room 227, 702 Langdon St., Madison
- Chippewa Valley Technical College Business Education Center, Room 171B, 620 West Clairemont Ave., Eau Claire
- UW-Green Bay, Room 1S1034, 2420 Nicolet Dr., Green Bay
- UW-Milwaukee, Lubar Hall, Room S250, 3202 North Maryland Ave., Milwaukee
- Northcentral Technical College, Center for Health Sciences, Room CHS 1004, 1000 West Campus Dr., Wausau
- Wisconsin Indianhead Technical College, Conference Center B, Room C-108, 600 North 21st St., Superior
- UW-La Crosse, Wing Technology Center, Room 104, 1725 State St., La Crosse

Those who are unable to attend can e-mail UILawChange@dwd.wisconsin.gov or write to Janell Knutson, Chair, Unemployment Insurance Advisory Council, P.O. Box 8942, Madison, WI 53708 by November 15th.

For more information, please visit <http://dwd.wisconsin.gov/uibola/UIAC/pubhearings/2012.htm>.