

MINUTES

UNEMPLOYMENT COMPENSATION MODERNIZATION AND IMPROVEMENT COUNCIL

July 26, 2021
Remote Meeting

Members Present

Representative Sean Tarwater, Chairperson
Senator Robert Olson
Senator Jeff Pittman
Senator Caryn Tyson
Representative Stephanie Clayton
Representative Susan Estes
Peter Brady
Phil Hayes
Jake Miller
Jeff Oswald
Shelbye Smith
Shawana Woods
Makala Navarro

Members Absent

Katie Givens

Staff Present

Edward Penner, Kansas Legislative Research Department
Kyle Hamilton, Office of Revisor of Statutes
Jason Long, Office of Revisor of Statutes
Charles Reimer, Office of Revisor of Statutes
Jill Wolters, Office of Revisor of Statutes
Sky Westerlund, Committee Assistant

MORNING SESSION

Call to Order

The meeting was conducted via Webex. The Chairperson called the meeting to order shortly after 11:30 a.m.

Discussion and Approval of Report to Legislative Coordinating Council

The draft report was emailed to the members of the Council for review ([Attachment 1](#)). A second document was distributed with several potential edits ([Attachment 2](#)).

The Chairperson asked the Council for discussion on the draft report.

Some concern was expressed about delaying the request for proposal (RFP) process by three or four months in order to hear from additional vendors. Concerns were also raised about whether a recommendation by the council to reopen the RFP process would be grounds for legal action by any of the current respondents to the RFP. The Office of Revisor of Statutes provided language for the report to include “if legally possible per the procurement process ...” to clarify the Council’s recommendation outside of the RFP. The Council makes non-binding recommendations to the Legislative Coordinating Council through the report. It was clarified that it would be up to the procurement committee and the Department of Administration if the RFP was to be reopened.

Other suggested edits included:

- Removing the names of specific companies within the text of the report;
- Clarifying the report to ensure the inclusion of the recommendation of a phased-in approach of the benefit and tax systems;
- Recommending the preparation for data migration to a new system begin;
- Listing various ways for persons to access the system, particularly those who may not have access to the internet; and
- Assuring there is language requiring the systems to meet industry standards.

Discussion ensued on the integration of the benefits side and the tax side of the unemployment insurance system.

A Council member expressed concern with flexible language that could allow going beyond the four bidders who submitted bids and asked this concern be duly noted.

Several more edits were made on pages 5 and 6 of the draft report.

Senator Tyson moved, seconded by Phillip Hayes, to incorporate all changes discussed into the report, including recommending the State and Council receive live presentations from Vendors A and B and potentially consider other vendors. A roll call vote was taken. The motion carried.

Senator Tyson moved, seconded by Representative Estes, to accept the document as amended. A roll call vote was taken. The motion carried.

The Chairperson stated if there is a Minority Report, it must be submitted no later than 3:30 p.m that day.

Adjourn

The Council adjourned at 12:17 p.m.

Prepared by Sky Westerlund

Edited by Matthew Willis

Approved by the Committee on:

September 8, 2021

(Date)