

Re-employment Assistance continued.....

Critics of the bill argue it would cover only 12 weeks, less than half the duration that many states offer and that the state tied for 47th in the U.S. in average weekly unemployment benefits (\$236).

Last week, the Senate approved S 50 to require out-of-state online retailers to collect Florida sales taxes that would be used to replenish the state's [Unemployment Compensation Trust Fund](#). That measure would alleviate businesses from a \$7-\$80 increase in unemployment taxes.

The House has no companion bill linked to **S 1906**.

An alternative House version [H 207](#) by **Rep Eskamani** would increase the state's max unemployment benefit [to \\$500 a week](#), plus extend eligibility from 12 weeks to 26 weeks. However, that bill is not moving.

Another version....Senate bill [S 910](#) by **Sen Stewart** increases the state's max unemployment benefit to \$400 a week and extend the benefit period to 26 weeks.

It was also pointed out that Florida's unemployment rate is 4.8 percent (Volusia is 5.1%). On March 27, the Daytona Beach News Journal pointed out that many local employers are unable to attract workers. One factor mentioned was the \$300 per week supplement on top of state benefits.