

## S 2865

### Unemployment Insurance Improvement Act

**Congress:** 117 (2021–2023, Ended)

**Chamber:** Senate

**Policy Area:** Labor and Employment

**Introduced:** Sep 27, 2021

**Current Status:** Read twice and referred to the Committee on Finance.

**Latest Action:** Read twice and referred to the Committee on Finance. (Sep 27, 2021)

**Official Text:** <https://www.congress.gov/bill/117th-congress/senate-bill/2865>

### Sponsor

**Name:** Sen. Wyden, Ron [D-OR]

**Party:** Democratic • **State:** OR • **Chamber:** Senate

### Cosponsors (3 total)

Cosponsor	Party / State	Role	Date Joined
Sen. Bennet, Michael F. [D-CO]	D · CO		Sep 28, 2021
Sen. Brown, Sherrod [D-OH]	D · OH		Sep 28, 2021
Sen. Murray, Patty [D-WA]	D · WA		Oct 26, 2021

### Committee Activity

Committee	Chamber	Activity	Date
Finance Committee	Senate	Referred To	Sep 27, 2021

### Subjects & Policy Tags

#### Policy Area:

Labor and Employment

### Related Bills

Bill	Relationship	Last Action
117 HR 5507	Identical bill	<b>Oct 8, 2021:</b> Referred to the Subcommittee on Worker and Family Support.

## **Unemployment Insurance Improvement Act**

This bill expands the list of requirements a state unemployment compensation system must follow to be compliant under federal law.

Specifically, the bill requires the maximum benefit period available to an individual be at least 26 weeks. The base period used to determine unemployment eligibility must consist of at least four completed calendar quarters preceding the claim and must include the most recently completed calendar quarter. Further, compensation must not be denied to an otherwise eligible individual who earns at least \$1,000 during the highest quarter and at least \$1,500 during the entire base period. Finally, compensation must not be denied under an ability to work, active search for work, or refusal to accept work provision solely on the basis of the number of hours of work the individual is seeking, so long as the individual is seeking at least 20 hours of work or half the hours the individual typically worked.

Employers that pay unemployment taxes to a noncompliant state system cannot claim amounts paid into the state system as a credit against federal unemployment tax due.

The bill also requires states to meet specified online claim system accessibility requirements and to ensure that offline means of filing are available. A state that does not comply cannot receive federal funds for administration of its state unemployment system.

## **Actions Timeline**

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- **Sep 27, 2021:** Introduced in Senate
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