



TO: The Honorable Members of the PA House Labor and Industry Committee

FROM: Alex Halper, Senior Vice President, Government Affairs

DATE: March 17, 2025

RE: **Oppose H.B. 265 – Redefining unemployment compensation**

The PA Chamber urges you to oppose H.B. 265 to expand eligibility definitions in Pennsylvania’s unemployment compensation law. The Committee is scheduled to consider the bill tomorrow.

H.B. 265 would grant UC eligibility to various categories of public school employees during the summer months. According to the PA Department of Labor & Industry’s website, “Unemployment compensation (UC) is money paid to workers who have lost their jobs through no fault of their own.” UC is intended to provide temporary wage benefits for these individuals as they actively seek new employment. We appreciate the intent behind H.B. 265 but respectfully suggest this bill contradicts the fundamental purpose of UC since these employees are not laid off or seeking new employment.

Pennsylvania employers have historically paid some of the highest taxes in the country to fund UC – [federal data from 2024](#) show PA employers’ average UC tax rate is over 50 percent higher than the national average. The same data show our average weekly benefit exceeds the national average and we have one of the top 10 most expansive eligibility standards. The PA Chamber supports UC but also encourages lawmakers to maintain the program’s focus on its intended recipients.

Please contact Alex Halper at ahalper@pachamber.org or 717-645-8730 with questions or to discuss.

[Click here](#) to check the PA Chamber Legislative Scorecard.
