



TO: The Honorable Members of the PA House of Representatives

FROM: Alex Halper, Senior Vice President, Government Affairs

DATE: December 16, 2025

RE: **PA Chamber memo: Support H.B. 274 - Unemployment Compensation package**

The PA Chamber urges you to support H.B. 274, a package of unemployment compensation legislation we have agreed to and which we understand the House may consider this week.

H.B. 274 includes several provisions supported by the PA Chamber:

- Codifies that claimants who discourage their own employment are not eligible for UC, responding to employer reports of “ghosting” in which UC claimants skip job interviews or ignore job offers in order to continue receiving benefits.
- Strengthens requirements for individuals to demonstrate a clear connection to the workforce before applying for benefits if they were recently deemed ineligible.
- Fixes a technical error in the law that would have inadvertently expanded UC eligibility costing the system millions of dollars.
- Helps employers avoid UC tax increases by adding new circumstances in which they are automatically granted relief from charges when a former employee qualifies for benefits.

The bill also delays implementation of a new benefit calculation that had been scheduled to go into effect in 2026 to make benefits more fair and reduce costs. We urge lawmakers going forward to prioritize the financial health of the UC trust fund, which remains below the federal solvency standard, despite employers historically paying some of the highest UC taxes in the country.

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

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