

Committee on Ways and Means

Summary of S. 23, Providing for a Five-Month Extension of the Temporary Extended Unemployment Compensation Act of 2002 January 2003

In March 2002 the Congress approved the Temporary Extended Unemployment Compensation Act (P.L. 107-147). This law:

- Provided up to 13 weeks of Federal extended benefits in every State for those who exhausted up to 26 weeks of regular State benefits.
- Provided up to 13 added weeks of Federal extended benefits (for a total of up to 26 weeks of Federal extended benefits on top of 26 weeks of State benefits) in certain “high unemployment” States.
- Assisted 4 million unemployed workers in all States through the program’s scheduled expiration of December 28, 2002.

S. 23, passed 416-4 by the House and signed into law by the President (Public Law 108-1) on January 8, 2003, will extend the March 2002 temporary Federal extended benefits program another five months, with a three-month phaseout.

- Program will continue through May, with a phaseout allowing those eligible by May to receive benefits through August 2003.
- Workers affected by the former December 28, 2002 expiration date will receive full benefits, as the President promised.
- Workers who exhaust regular State benefits in the coming months will become eligible for up to 13 weeks of Federal extended benefits in all States and up to 26 weeks in “high unemployment” States (same definition as in March 2002 law).
- Program extension will assist 1.9 million new recipients and 800,000 current recipients, at a cost of \$7.2 billion in 2003.