



JAMES W. EDMING

STATE REPRESENTATIVE • 87TH ASSEMBLY DISTRICT

For Immediate Release
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Rep. Edming Votes to Upgrade Unemployment Computer Systems

MADISON – Yesterday, Representative James Edming (R-Glen Flora) voted for legislation, [January 2021 Special Session Senate Bill \(SS SB\) 1](#), which directs Governor Evers’ administration to begin the process of upgrading the Unemployment Insurance (UI) computer systems at the Department of Workforce Development (DWD).

“Since last March, one of the most common issues that residents of the 87th Assembly District have contacted my office about is requesting assistance in getting their unemployment benefits from DWD,” said Rep. Edming. “This bill creates a plan for Governor Evers’ administration to follow to upgrade the out of date UI computer system, something that they could have begun on their own.”

SS SB 1 requires DWD to issue a request for proposals (RFP) within 30 days after the effective date of the bill and the project to upgrade the computer system must begin by June 30, 2021. The legislation also requires the use of federal dollars first before state funding can be used. According to the nonpartisan Legislative Fiscal Bureau, Governor Evers already has the ability to finance the development of a new UI computer system through the state master lease program.

“We have heard Governor Evers and his administration place the blame for the backlog in UI claims on an outdated computer system for some time,” said Rep. Edming. “However, several audits from the nonpartisan Legislative Audit Bureau have found that mismanagement at DWD is to blame for much of the backlog in processing UI claims.”

In addition this legislation also contains some important measures that were a part of [Assembly Bill \(AB\) 1](#) that was vetoed by Governor Evers earlier this month including:

- Exempting UI recipients from the one-week waiting period through March 14
- Civil liability exemption language

SS SB 1 passed both houses of the legislature with wide bipartisan support and now heads to Governor Evers’ desk where he will hopefully sign it into law.

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The 87th Assembly District includes portions of Clark, Marathon, Rusk, Sawyer, and Taylor Counties.