



STATE OF MINNESOTA

Office of Governor Tim Pawlenty

130 State Capitol ♦ 75 Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Boulevard ♦ Saint Paul, MN 55155

May 22, 2009

The Honorable Margaret Anderson Kelliher
Speaker of the House of Representatives
463 State Office Building
St. Paul, Minnesota 55155

Dear Speaker Kelliher:

I have vetoed and am returning House File 925, Chapter 135.

This bill requires the Department of Employment and Economic Development to design and implement a relatively obscure measure of unemployment and underemployment, referred to by the United States Department of Labor (USDOL) as "U6." This legislation also requires monthly reporting of this rate to the chairs and ranking minority members of the applicable legislative committees.

Only two other states calculate the U6 measurement. Moreover, those states do not release it publicly, in part because they want to avoid misleading comparisons with other states. Currently, all states utilize the "U3" as the official measurement of unemployment. The U3 measurement is based upon total unemployed as a percent of the labor force. This is the definition used for the official unemployment rate.

It is also my understanding that the USDOL already provides U6 information to states through the Bureau of Labor and Statistics. Because this information is available to the Legislature, this legislation is unnecessary.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Tim Pawlenty".

Tim Pawlenty
Governor

Speaker Kelliher/HF 925

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cc: Senator James Metzen, President of the Senate
Senator Lawrence J. Pogemiller, Majority Leader
Senator David Senjem, Minority Leader
Senator Scott Dibble
Representative Marty Seifert, Minority Leader
Representative Tony Sertich
Mr. Peter S. Wattson, Secretary of the Senate (Legislative)
Mr. Al Mathiowetz, Chief Clerk of the House of Representatives
Mr. Mark Ritchie, Secretary of State