# STATE OF NEVADA EMPLOYMENT SECURITY DIVISION (ESD) WORKSHOP TO ADDRESS THE IMPACT OF A PROPOSED REGULATION ON SMALL BUSINESSES

# 2018 E-FILING SMALL BUSINESS WORKSHOP

Thursday, March 22, 2018; 11:00 A.M.

Place of Meeting: <u>Live Meeting:</u> <u>Video Conference to:</u>

Legislative Building Grant Sawyer Building

401 S. Carson Street, Room 3137 555 E. Washington Ave., Room 4412E

Carson City, Nevada 89701 Las Vegas, Nevada 89101

# Department of Employment, Training and Rehabilitation (DETR) Staff

# **Present in Carson City**

Jeffrey Frischmann, ESD/DETR

Laurie Trotter, ESD Senior Attorney

Edgar Roberts, Chief of Contributions, ESD/DETR

Alessandro Capello, Bureau of Research & Analysis, DETR

Brian Bracken, ESD/DETR

Christina Guzman, ESD/DETR

Joyce Golden, Administrative Office, ESD/DETR

JoAnne Wiley, ESD/DETR

Mikki Reed, ESD/DETR

Stewart Terry, ESD/DETR

Tiffani Silva, ESD/DETR

Amy Yukish, ESD/DETR

Scott Kennedy, ESD/DETR

## Department of Employment, Training and Rehabilitation (DETR) Staff

# Present in Las Vegas

Art Martinez, Contributions, ESD/DETR

# Members of the Public, Media and Other Agencies

## **Present in Carson City**

None

# Members of the Public, Media and Other Agencies

## Present in Las Vegas

None

FRISCHMANN: Good morning, my name is Jeffrey

Frischmann. I am the Employment Security Division Deputy

Administrator for the Unemployment Insurance Program. I will be speaking on behalf of Renee Olson, Administrator of the Employment Security Division. I will go ahead and start with Agenda Item Number 1 and call this meeting to order.

The purpose of this public small business workshop is to present and solicit public comment on a proposed amendment of a regulation pertaining to Chapter 612 of the Nevada Administrative Code, pursuant to Nevada Revised Statute 233B.061. The proposed amendment will establish the electronic filing of Unemployment Insurance Contribution and Wage Reports for Nevada Employers effective July 1, 2018.

I'd like to introduce, to my right is our Division Senior

Attorney, Laurie Trotter. We will also have several other

members of the Division Staff available here in the North and in

the South as well. Please ask for assistance if you need it. I

would like to thank all of you for attending this small business

workshop.

Under Agenda Item 2, we will start with the opportunity for public comment. If you would like to provide public comment, please come forward. Please limit your comments to five minutes each and if you have any written testimony to present, you can provide that to staff. When speaking, please identify yourself

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by stating your name, who you represent and then proceed with your comments.

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Is there anybody that would like to provide public comment in Las Vegas at this time? I see nobody coming forward from Las Vegas. Is there anyone in Carson City who would like to comment? We will go ahead and close the first opportunity for public comment.

I will move on to Agenda Item Number 3, Confirmation of Posting. Mr. Terry, for the record, was proper notice for this meeting given and did you receive proper confirmation of posting in accordance with Nevada Revised Statute 241.0203?

TERRY: Stewart Terry, for the record, Management Analyst for the Employment Security Division and Management and Administration Support Services Unit. Yes, proper notice was provided for this meeting pursuant to Nevada's Open Meeting Law, NRS 241.020 and confirmation of posting was received.

FRISCHMANN: Thank you Mr. Terry. Agenda Item Number 4.

Under Agenda Item Number 4, review of written comments. Mrs.

Golden, have any written comments been received in regard to this Small Business Workshop.

GOLDEN: Joyce Golden, for the record. Assistant to the Administrator. No written comments were received for this meeting.

FRISCHMANN: Thank you Mrs. Golden. Moving on to Agenda

Item Number 5. The Administrator Review of the Regulation. With

the Administrator Review of the Regulation, I will be providing this review on Mrs. Olson's behalf.

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This small business workshop is being held to review the proposed regulation to amend Chapter 612 of the Nevada

Administrative Code. This regulation requires Employers to file all reports required by NRS 612.535 through 612.580 electronically.

In September of 2015, the UI Program implemented the final phase for a new state-of-the-art computer system that boasts a secured user-friendly self-service portal. Currently, approximately 67% of Nevada Employers are taking advantage of the self-service portal and are regularly filing their quarterly reports electronically. Approximately 84% of the paper reports received from Employers are Employers that have less than 10 employees.

The purpose of the regulation is to mandate electronic filing which will ultimately make the filing process more efficient, cost-effective and improve accuracy. In the three years since implementing the new UI computer system, we have regularly received positive feedback from the 66% of Employers that voluntarily file electronically.

This is not unlike individuals that file their personal federal income tax returns electronically. Studies show that almost 85% of taxpayers voluntarily elect to file their personal income tax returns online.

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This approach is currently being used successfully in a number of states that have recently modernized their systems.

Those states have shifted staffing resources to focus on customer service, to assist in educating Employers on electronic filing, opposed to rekeying information from paper forms into the system.

In the long term, it has benefited both the State and the Employer community and has created a win-win situation for all of the stakeholders.

The proposed regulation will become effective July 1, 2018, allowing sufficient time for Employers that are not currently filing electronically to comply. The proposed regulation also allows for Employers to request a waiver in instances where electronic filing could cause a hardship.

I'd like to provide a summary of the listening sessions that were conducted. On July 18, 2017, the Employment Security Division Administrator held the first listening session in Carson City to discuss and solicit comment on the proposed regulation.

No written comments were received for this meeting. At the July 18th meeting—listening session, only one member of the public provided public comment, asking for clarification on the capture of an electronic signature in Nevada's Unemployment Insurance System, UINV. No other public comment was provided.

The Division held 15 additional listening sessions throughout Nevada in an effort to solicit public comment. No written comments or public comment was provided for any of these

additional sessions. Minutes from these meetings are available on the Division's website.

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Moving on to Item Number-Agenda Item Number 6. I would like-I would like to move on to Agenda Item Number 6 and move on to our workshop to consider the proposed regulation to establish the electronic filing of Unemployment Insurance Contribution and Wage Reports for Nevada. Employers and others-from Nevada-I'm sorry. For Nevada Employers and introduce our presenters for today.

Under Item 6A and 6B, Ms. Amy Yukish, ESD Business Process

Analyst will present Unemployment Insurance, Employer's Self
Service and Electronic Filing for ESS. She will then hand off to

Mr. Alex Capello, Economist II with the Department's Research and

Analysis Bureau for the presentation of the Small Business Impact

Statement. Ms. Yukish?

YUKISH: Good morning. My name is Amy Yukish and I'm a Business Process Analyst with the Employment Security

Division. The following slides incorporate Agenda Item 6A and 6B providing a brief overview of Employer Self-Service, also known as ESS and how Employers can electronically file the Contribution and Wage Report.

After the Employer creates their online credentials and logs into ESS, the system displays the Employer summary page.

The Employer summary provides the Employer with up-to-date account information including Employer's UI and CEP rate for the

current year; account balance with a total amount due; along with a breakdown by UI, CEP and penalties and interests. Recent payments shows the Employer all payments received and processed by ESD. Quarterly Report Summary displays the most recent quarterly contribution reports that have been filed with the Division and payment allocation. Smart Links notify the Employer of any missing contribution reports, wage reports or payments due which leads us right into the next topic, Electronic Filing of the Unemployment Insurance Contribution and Wage Report.

The Employer can either click on the Smart Link for the quarter they want to file or use the left navigation link to file reports. The recommended electronic filing method for small Employers is Enter Report using UINV. The Employer is provided with the following reporting options. For the presentation, I have selected both contribution and wage reports. To continue filing the report, select the Next button.

The Employee's SSN and names are prepopulated to assist with the completion of the report. The system will automatically load the Employees listed on the Wage Report, filed—last Wage Report filed with the Division. If there has been any employee movement during the quarter, the Employer would simply select the employees who did not work during the quarter and delete, add any new employees and then complete the Wage Record for the remaining employees by entering gross wages and tips.

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ESS calculates the total gross wages and total taxable wages when the update button is selected. Once all wages have been entered and the figures for total gross and taxable wages

have been confirmed, the Employer will select the next button.

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ESS populates the contribution report, gross wages and taxable wages based on the wage report. The Employer will enter in the number of employees per month and click the next button.

ESS provides the Employer with the amount due based on the Contribution Report, Total Taxable Wages. The Employer is encouraged to print the reports for the records an electronic signature is required prior to submitting the contribution and wage report.

ESS provides the Employer with a confirmation number on successful completion of the Contribution and Wage Report. As you can see by the presentation, the e-filing method is user friendly and can be completed in less than five minutes.

I would now like to introduce Alex Capello who will present Agenda Item 6C.

CAPELLO: Thank you, Amy. For the record, my name is Alessandro Capello, I'm an Economist with the Research and Analysis Bureau within DETR.

The purpose of this small business workshop is to discuss and solicit comment from Employers on the regulation requiring those Employers to file their Wage and Contribution Reports electronically.

This impact statement, we're supposed to—we try to estimate the economic impact. So, we first look at who it affects. So, it affects all Nevada Employers that submit Contribution and Wage Reports. As Jeff mentioned, 67% of Employers already file electronically. Most of which are—most of the remaining are actually small Employers. So, those manual filers will need to

find a new method for filing reports.

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When it came to estimating a hard number for the economic impact, we didn't really have enough data or knowledge to have an estimable number. So, there is no real dollar amount that we can estimate.

So, the beneficial impacts, as Jeff mentioned, we expect to see Employers with improved efficiency and accuracy. It's unlikely that a lot of these Employers know of the electronic filing system, especially since 84% of the Employers with 10 or less employees are filing manually. We expect to see improved accuracy and efficiency from those Employers.

The adverse impacts—so, some of the Employers that file may be filing manually because they do—because they lack technological resources and access to the internet. So, they will need to acquire that or possibly, they may need to hire an employment service or payroll service to complete their reports. We looked at kind of average cost for 10 employees. That ranged between \$820 and \$3,080 per year. Then, so one of the additional parts of the regulation—if an Employer can demonstrate that the

regulation is a hardship, they may request a waiver from the Administrator.

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The direct impacts. The regulation will require all Employers that are not already electronically filing their reports to begin doing so by July 1, 2018. As far as indirect impacts, kind of associated with the adverse impacts; Employers may have to acquire some sort of technology or internet connectivity to support their reports or they may choose to hire a service to do so on their behalf.

The estimated cost of enforcement and revenue increases from the regulation. Because it's already enforced—the regulation will be enforced through the existing UI system, there will not be any additional costs and because there's no revenue generated, it's net neutral.

Then as far as—the last slide, duplication of existing standards and laws or regulations rather because it only modifies, that's the only affect. Again, as I mentioned, if that—the modification can be demonstrated as a hardship, a waiver can be requested from the Administrator.

That's all I have for you.

FRISCHMANN: Thank you Ms. Yukish and Mr. Capello for your presentations. With that, we will move on to Agenda Item 7. We have the final opportunity for public comment. If anybody would like to come forward at this time. Is there anybody that would like to provide public comment in Las Vegas? I see nobody

coming forward. Is there anyone in Carson City who would like to comment. Again, I see nobody coming forward, so we will go ahead and close this opportunity for public comment.

With that, the final Agenda Item, I'd like to thank

With that, the final Agenda Item, I'd like to thank everybody, and particularly the Staff for the presentations they put together and the rest of the Staff for helping set this up and arrange this. Special shout out to Art down there in South. Thank you again for your help down there.

And I hereby adjourn this meeting.

[end of meeting 11:17]