

April 15, 2009

The Virginia Employment Commission (VEC) recently updated state legislators about Unemployment Insurance (UI) and Cobra benefits

Top VEC officials briefed a General Assembly oversight group, the [Manufacturing Development Commission](#), on April 7 in Richmond about ARRA changes in Unemployment Insurance and Cobra benefits.

The [VEC Presentation](#) regarding unemployment benefits captured two issues:

Virginia state law currently includes an alternative UI base period (passed in 2003). Therefore Virginia qualifies for \$62.5 million in ARRA funding. Gov. Timothy M. Kaine proposed and the General Assembly agreed [to accept this funding](#). The legislature did so during the April 8 reconvened session.

Virginia also was eligible to receive an additional \$125 million – in addition to the \$65 million – in UI funding if it amended its benefit plan. While Gov. Kaine proposed amending and accepting the new funding, the General Assembly [rejected his recommendation](#). The legislature did so during the April 8 reconvened session.

VEC also presented a helpful presentation regarding [COBRA changes](#) included in the ARRA.

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