

## **Unemployment Insurance for Contingent Academic Workers SJR 29 Sen. Ed Maloney**

### **IEA Position:**

Support

### **Background:**

During the 1970s, a special provision was written into the Social Security Act of 1935 concerning contingent academic workers. The provision excluded education workers from receipt of unemployment benefits unless they can demonstrate that they do not have "reasonable assurance" of continued employment.

Academic contingent workers in higher education are frequently denied access to unemployment benefits based on a very broad interpretation of "reasonable assurance."

### **Task Force Charges and Membership**

Charges:

- 1) estimate costs to higher education institutions of a change in this law that allows contingent academics to collect unemployment insurance, and
- 2) examine the growth of employment of part time contingent faculty over the past ten years

Members of the Unemployment Insurance for Contingent Academic Workers Task Force are:

2 statewide education labor union representatives from a 2 year institution;  
2 statewide education labor union representatives from a 4 year institution;  
2 management representatives from higher education institutions to be appointed by the Illinois Board of Higher Education;  
1 representative from the Illinois Department of Employment Security;  
1 legislator from each of the 4 caucuses;  
1 representative from the Governor's office – Chair

The Task Force is charged with holding 3 statewide hearings on the topic. A final report is to be issued to the Illinois General Assembly by July 1, 2010.